

# **Losers + Lovers**

## **[REDDIE]**

**Mystic\_Talon**

## Losers + Lovers [REDDIE] by Mystic\_Talon

**Category:** IT (Movies - Muschietti), IT - Stephen King

**Genre:** Anxiety, F/M, Horror, Love, Lust, M/M, Mystery, PTSD, Pride, Reddie

**Language:** English

**Characters:** Ben Hanscom, Beverly Marsh, Bill Denbrough, Eddie Kaspbrak, Mike Hanlon, Richie Tozier, Stanley Uris

**Relationships:** Eddie Kaspbrak x Richie Tozier, Richie Tozier x Eddie Kaspbrak - Relationship

**Status:** Completed

**Published:** 2019-10-11

**Updated:** 2019-11-27

**Packaged:** 2019-12-19 14:25:00

**Rating:** Mature

**Warnings:** Graphic Depictions Of Violence

**Chapters:** 26

**Words:** 41,783

**Publisher:** archiveofourown.org

**Summary:**

Do you remember?

Remember?

When we were growing up? Y'know...after the first attack?

This is a lot to think about...

Sorry Eds

No no...I can..I can remember

Oh how we were as teens

Hm...

Oh, yeah..I remember then



# 1. Prologue

## Author's Note:

[Inspired by: Slashpalooza on Twitter & Tumblr]  
Notes: Stanley is alive (Bc I'll have minor Stan x Bill moments) / Time frame based on IT films from 2017 & 2019 / No one dies, but there's heavy stuff relating with Suicide, self harm, and abuse / Story is placed when they are high school students / Canon and Fan ships of course

"He'll be on a ventilator until he starts breathing on his own. Which will take time. Surgery had its ups and down. Hence why it'll take a while. Please notify a nurse if you'd like a cot in the room Mr. Tozier" The doctor escorts herself out of the room as Richie relaxes a bit against the wall looking down at Eddie's beaten you body.

"Yo" A knock on the door frame startled Richie as he looks at Bill who was staring at him. "Everything alright?"

"Yeah...and Stan?"

"Oh boy you have NO IDEA, he's drugged most of the time do you anti depressants but who the fuck knew that Pennywise drove us insane"

Silence filled the room...

"Was that supposed to be funny?"

“Sorry Rich”

Richie couldn't make a joke as he only worried about if Eddie is going to make it off the vent or make it at all. Bill walks beside him resting against the wall looking down at Eddie.

“He's going to pull through Richie. Don't stress about it. Alright?” Bill pats his back before going back to Stanley.

Richie watches him leave as he takes a seat by his bed staring at him for the moment. He reached for his hand watching him twitch.

“Eds....”

“Eddie..”

“ .... ”

Muscle spasm possibly

Richie felt the tears starting to form in his eyes as he takes his hand into his crying. He rests his head on the bed continuing to cry.

## Day Four

“Beep beep Richie” Bev smiles walking into the patient room with coffee and a danish since Richie hasn’t left Eddie’s side meaning he hasn’t eaten.

“Hey...Bev” Richie sits up more on the chair feeling knots in his back.  
“God this fucking chair is god awful”

“You know you could get a cot. Bill got it for Stanley’s room. Since he’s also still here” Bev sat down by Eddie’s feet setting the coffee on the tray taking the danish bag off the holder handing it to Richie.  
“You need to eat sometimes Richie”

“No I-“

“Shut up. Eat” Bev wasn’t going to take no as an answer.

As Richie takes the bag, Bev suddenly jumped off the bed from feeling Eddie’s feet move. The two stared in shock before hearing coughing.

## Day Ten

“He’s off the vent. But he hasn’t woken up completely. We weened him off the sedatives so he should wake up soon” The doctor says calmly to Eddie’s wife as Richie stayed outside the room with Mike.

Every loser but Eddie and Stanley have always checked on Richie.

“Aren’t they like....”

“Split? I have...no..idea” Richie frowns resting his back against the wall sliding down to sit.

“Richie?”

“....I can’t...”

“Dude. Don’t think like that” Mike sits besides him resting a hand on his shoulder. “He’s gonna be fine”

“I hope Mike....I really fucking hope”

Mike looks at Richie and how much of an emotional beating this is taking on him. But before he could say anything the doctor walked out carrying Eddie’s chart as she stops looking at Richie.

“Richie? Correct?”

Richie nods lifting his head as the doctor sees the tear stains on his face.

“He’s stable. And from what his contacts state from his medical records in New York. Ms. Kaspbrak isn’t his emergency. It’s only necessary to tell her his condition since they are married. But any directive would have had to be decided by you” She states handing Richie the directive before watching the wife head out crying. “Now if you’ll excuse me” she takes it back after Richie looked at his name under emergency contact, she left leaving the two there.

“Guess he trusts his life on you more than anybody else” Mike states as he got up to walk in and check on Eddie himself.

## Day Twelve

It was two o’clock in the morning, Richie couldn’t sleep as he had now gotten a cot into the room so he was laying on that. He stares at the ceiling thinking about a whole lot of things then...

“....r....ri....”

Richie thought it was nothing at first but he had to get out of the cot and immediately go to his side.

“.....rich.....ie?” Eddie forced himself to open his eyes as he looked around for a bit for his eyes to adjust.

Richie sits down on the edge of his bed before looking at him with



tears rolling down his cheeks.

“Richie...”

“I fucked your mom. Really?”

Eddie tried not to laugh too much at what his last words were gonna be. He held his chest for the moment as Richie took his freehand feeling Eddie immediately squeeze.

“...were..you here?..all this time?”

“Yes...every day...”

“Heh...you must really love me Richie” Eddie laughs before coughing a bit and smiling.

“Do...you remember?”

“Huh...”

“Umm...high school...”

“oh...”

“Everyone else does so..I had to ask...”

“Mm..I do” Eddie groans a bit when he tried to sit up but laid back down. “who could forget...”

“Forget?”

“That night you told me your feelings....”

## 2. Ch. 1

-1991-

Fifteen years old

Freshmen in High school

Who would've thought hell could exist in a different form that isn't the "dead" Pennywise.

"BILL YOUR FRIENDS ARE DOWNSTAIRS WAITING. HURRY UP"

"IM COMING" Bill sighs grabbing his backpack as he ran down the stairs finding his friends staring right at him. "The fuck did I do?"

"BILL LANGUAGE" His mother snaps as Richie shares a laugh with Stanley.

"Shut up you two" Bill pushes the two out of his house as the other three follow.

As the six got on their bikes and started riding toward school. Of course small talk was brought up.

"We could hang out at my place to study"

“What’s there to study?! This is the first day!”

“Shut up Richie. We can still study”

“THERES-“ Richie was suddenly kicked off his bike by Bev before resulting in herself falling off hers.

Worth it knowing that Stan and Richie’s argument is over. Bev slowly got up stretching as Ben had gotten off his bike to check on her. She turns to the now nervously blushing Ben which made her take full advantage and kiss his cheek making him internally scream. Eddie looks down at Richie watching him get up slowly and looking at his arm seeing the road burn. Richie soon turned toward the group seeing Eddie rapidly draw his attention away.

“Come on let’s get going” Bill states as he started riding again with four following him.

Richie got on his bike before becoming unbalance watching Eddie suddenly grab his arm.

“Ed-“

“Shut the fuck up”

Richie stops talking as he watches Eddie drop his backpack taking out antibiotic spray immediately spraying it on the burn making him flinch. Eddie kept a hold on his arm as he grabs a bandaid putting it on the burn before grabbing his bag and quickly getting on his bike to catch up with the others. Richie watches him go before blushing a bit to himself.

“Wow. So many new faces” Ben states as the five finally park their bikes in the bike rack. As they were locking up they were watching everyone.

“Why would they go to fucking Derry, Maine...” Bill frowns as Stanley shrugs.

“They didn’t have to fight a psychotic clown..” Eddie blurts making them all stare but it ended in a laugh.

“Yeah they haven’t” Bev continues to laugh before taking her bag and heading inside. “See you at lunch~”

“We still have thirty minutes???”

“Then come with me lover boy” Bev teases Ben as he fidgets with his bag hurrying over.

Mike laughs a bit before scanning the remains and realizing. “Where’s Richie?”

“Did he fall behind or get distracted by a new girl?” Bill jokes as Mike and Stanley laugh but Eddie just shrugged and went inside the school. “Weird”

“Oh don’t worry about it. He’ll show up for lunch”

“We don’t even have a lunch spot Mike”

“Oh..yeah. Shit okay. Guess I’ll wait for Rich. Y’all go ahead” Mike waves off Stan and Bill as he waited by the bike racks for Richie who was slacking.

Richie couldn’t stop over thinking about every single thing as he finally gets to the bike racks finding Mike waiting for him.

“Guess the others are impatient”

“Hmmm. No?”

“Don’t be nice Mike”

“Yeah okay...They already went inside. Don’t know where the two pairs went but Eddie went in alone”

“Hm. Alright, well let’s go to class I guess”

“You good Richie? Did you hit your head on the way down?” Mike laughs a bit as Richie rolls his eyes.

“Maybe if I did. I’d be smarter than a fifth grader” Richie laughs as does Mike.

Mike walks beside him on their way to history as he caught a glimpse of the bandaid. Wondering if he went back home to patch himself up or who knows who put that on him.

After a few hours it was lunch and the losers club met on the bleachers instead of the cafeteria since there was one too many popular that they rather not be involved with then anything.

“So I already almost got suspended” Bev states as Bill looks at her with disbelief.

“I don’t believe that one bit”

“well of course you don’t. You goody toe shoes. You don’t smoke”

“Smoking can give you lung cancer and you can die” Eddie blurts as Bev looks at him with a dead stare.

“Hypochondriac lookin ass. Little Eddie needs to not worry about me.” Bev swoons as she lays in Ben’s lap on the bleachers.

“I can show you some spots I’ve found. That won’t get you caught by fire alarms” Richie states as Bev smirks.

“After school?”

“Yeah” Richie agrees laying back as Eddie frowns looking at him before opening his tub of carrots to only watch Richie grab a few.

“Do you not get lunch dipwad”

“Oh I do, but your mother’s pussy ain’t around for me to eat” Richie jokes getting a few laughs as Eddie hits the top of his head with the cap.

“Yo we are gonna go get something to drink. We’ll be right back” Stanley got up heading down the bleachers with Bill following shortly after.

“Those two are def hooking up. Just won’t say anything about it” Bev states as Mike slides down next to her.

“Do you know anything more than just an assumption”



“You are definitely going to be a cop if you’re gonna interrogate me” Bev laughs a bit before shrugging. “I don’t have any. They just looking good together Y’know”

“I agree with that. Isn’t Stanley out anyway?” Ben asks as Bev and Mike nod.

“But Bill isn’t. I don’t see a point in keeping a secret when they are obvious” Eddie made a good point but they were all respectful of one another so they weren’t gonna push it. But Richie might and so they thought he would. Instead...

“I’d just be happy for them. No point in assuming or joking.” Richie rests his head on a bleacher seat as everyone looked at him confused.

“No joke?”

“He’s serious”

“Oh my god he matured in two years?”

“What the fuck Richie”

“What? You assume a lot about me. BUT. I...” Richie frowns before shrugging. “I don’t know. It is kind of gay”

“There’s the Richie we know and love” Bev laughs as they were all startled by bell for their next set of classes. “Welp. Who’s gonna wait for them?”

“I will” Richie suggests sitting up as he watches his friends go. But he specifically kept his eyes on a certain someone.

Eddie stops at the bottom of the bleachers looking up at Richie as the two lock a glance.

“Beep beep Richie” Eddie states before hurrying to his class like the smartass he is.

Richie snickers a bit watching him go before suddenly getting spooked by Stanley who popped up behind him.

“FUCK”

“Sorry Richie, who yea staring at?”

“None of your fucking business. Grab your shit so I can get to class” Richie frowns handing him his bag as Stanley sat beside him for the moment. “What?”

“You remember”

“Shut the fuck up”

“That I am keeping a rather important secret”

“STANLEY I SWEAR TO FUCK” Richie snaps before getting up and leaving.

Stanley laughs a bit to himself before grabbing Bill’s bag and heading to his class to drop it off. As Richie angrily makes it to his class finding the only empty seat being in the back, right next to Eddie.

“Well look what the cat dragged in” Richie jokes trying to get the anger out of his system as he took a seat.

“Can’t believe I’m stuck in here with you”

“Ouch. Thought you loved me Eddie”

“Oh shut up” Eddie covers his face with his textbook hiding the pink growing on his cheeks.

Richie leans back watching him hide his face even more into the book. He laughs a tad to himself before crossing his arms resting against the desk smiling.

Soon classes were over and Richie met up with Beverly in the back of the school taking her to the obvious spot to smoke which was under the bleachers furthest from the school doors leading to the fields.

“Man. When did you get smart with places”

“When I started the addiction” Richie takes out his pack from his pocket before putting them back and taking her to the most remote brooms closet in school that’s nowhere near a sprinkler head and the closet doesn’t have one at all.

Bev watches Richie light one of his cigarettes as she sat down in the theater beanbag that stays in that closet and only leaves for plays. She lit one of hers herself as she watches Richie’s expression go from neutral to upset. She was going to question when the two heard keys jangle which lead to locking the door.

“Well. Ain’t that just peachy”

Richie frowns before becoming infuriated and putting out his cig. He leans against the door waiting to hear no one near. Richie takes a few steps back in the small closet before launching himself and kicking the door open breaking it off the hinges. He grabs his stuff heading out as Bev watches him starting to limp.

“Beep beep Richie....” Bev frowns wondering what goes on in the curled hair boys head.

“I know your secret....your closeted secret...” Richie said softly to himself before getting even angrily and kicking the main doors of the school open. “Fucking Stanley...” he trots down the stairs going to the bike racks finding a note.

As Richie takes it into his hands he opens it finding a ridiculous drawing of a Pomeranian. He laughs a bit before thinking long about it and blushing.

### **Notes for the Chapter:**

The chapter titles is pissing me off slightly but I'm just going to work with it.

### 3. Ch. 2

Two weeks have gone by and Richie has been receiving these drawings as they were the thing they made him happy after school.

“Why do happy Rich?” Bill asks the smiling day dreaming teen meaning Richie didn’t even think about what he asked. “Richie?”

“Just let him be” Stanley elbowed Bill as the three were hanging out at lunch. “But I’m actually curious myself”

“I....Have a secret admirer~” Richie swings back slamming his hands onto the table.

“Woah someone actually wants to get in your pants?” Bill jokes as Richie kicks him under the table making him yelp which gave off a few laughs from Stanley. “Okay okay. Now how do you know?”

“Because they keep leaving drawings on my bike” Richie goes into his backpack pulling out his folder and taking out all the drawings on yellow notebook papers cut in squares.

Bill and Stanley were looking at a few as Stanley saw a pattern. He was flipping through a few one of glasses, a bridge, a Pomeranian, a bat, a few more that relates mainly to Richie but he soon found one of an inhaler. Stanley didn’t want to jump the gun or ruin Richie’s hopes. But he didn’t want anything terrible to happen.

“Aren’t you a lucky guy” Bill says calmly as he starts to pile the pieces together and stacking while Eddie walks up to them with his lunch.

“Lucky guy?”

“Oh that would be me” Richie smirks as Eddie takes the empty seat next to him. “Wanna know why?”

“Um. Are you gonna let me chose no?”

“Nope” Richie moves the pile toward Eddie as he sets his lunch bag on the table before looking through the drawings.

Bill notices Eddie’s expression go even more south then what it already was. He nudged Stanley to look when he hasn’t taken his eyes off the two.

“Who’s the lucky lady Richie?”

“Hmm. I don’t know. They are a secret~” Richie smirks as Eddie hands them back which made four eyes’s expression go south. “You okay Eds?”

“Don’t call me Eds..I forgot my water in my locker” Eddie got up grabbing his lunch and backpack heading out.

Richie was about to get up when Stanley did instead of followed Eddie all the way to his locker. Stanley stops at a distance watching Eddie get harassed by Bowers. He was about to cut in when Bill and Richie came to mainly check on Eddie themselves but Richie held his bat with more grip getting in between Bowers and Eddie.

“Leave him alone you fucking bitch”

“Oh Richie, better watch that tone you fag” Bowers threats getting up in his face as Richie pushes him back with his bat giving them distance. “You think you can hurt me with this?”

“I’d like to see you try” Richie snaps as Bill quickly grabbed Eddie knowing very well that Richie isn’t going to win this fight.

Bev sat under the bleachers enjoying a smoke while Ben rested in her lap. She heard footsteps which made her turn her head finding Richie’s nose bleeding and a black eye with a blood sore.

“Shit. Who’d you try protecting this time”

“ ... ”

“Okay...need a smoke?”



Richie nods as Bev offers one of hers watching him take it but before she lit it for him. She watched him drift into his deep thoughts which meant he probably burn Ben with his cig off he continued to doze off.

“You okay Richie?”

“No. I just want this fucking day over with” Richie takes the lighter lighting it himself as he starts takes a few hits.

Bev frowns worried for the four eyed boy but she didn’t know completely what was going on in his head. She leaned her head against his shoulder to give him some kind of comfort. The three relax there not being interrupted one bit.

After school Richie walks down the front stairs going to the bike racks finding another note on his bike. He was about to grab it when he felt someone grab his shirt from the back. He turns around finding Eddie with concern written all over his face which made Richie feel bad for some odd reason.

“You’ve been avoiding seeing the nurse...”

“Eddie. I’m fine..I don’t need to go to the nurse”

“Can I just fucking take care of it then”

“Whatever you say Eddie Spaghetti”

As the moments went by Richie sat on the stairs holding Eddie's mini first aid kit as the doctor works.

"Do you...know who sent those notes yet?"

"Nope. I'm losing hope quickly."

"...Why?"

"I have a lot of things in my head Eds, don't think anyone has the time to understand" Richie flinches a bit feeling the blood sore sting from antibiotics. "Fuck"

"I'm almost done stay still..."

"okay..."

"Can't believe you fucking stood up for me. You're an idiot letting him take the bat"

"Mm. Anything to protect those I care about right..." Richie fiddles with the box meaning he didn't notice the slight tint of pink on Eddie's cheeks.

When Eddie finished he put his things away as Richie would watch his every move for the moment before looking away when Eddie looked back.

“Well. I should go home before my mom kills me”

“Give Ms. K a kiss for me?” Richie laughs as Eddie punches his arm. “Ouchie” he continues to laugh while putting on his glasses.

As Eddie went down to his bike unlocking it. He saw the note stuck to Richie’s handle bars. Eddie looked back finding Richie distracted in his own thoughts giving him the opportunity to open it and look at it finding....

R + E

Eddie blushes even more but he immediately puts it back and gets on his bike hurrying off. Richie soon brought himself back out of his thoughts before thinking of what to do in that moment. He got up heading to his bike and opening the note finding R + E making him turn quickly to see Eddie still riding off.

“Eds...” Richie frowns trying to completely understand this note.

Soon Richie found himself riding toward the same old bridge as he saw someone familiar but before he could comprehend he hit a bump and fell into the bushes causing whoever was there to ride off. Richie quickly got up running to the bridge finding that person no where.

He frowns wishing he got a better look in who it was. But his main purpose in being there was looking at his carving.

R + E

R + E

Who else would've known about who wrote this...

Other than Eddie.

## 4. Ch. 3

Three days went by as it was now the end of the week...

“Yo is Richie home?” Mike asks Mrs. Tozier as the other losers waited behind him.

“He’s sick hun, he won’t be coming into school today. I’m sorry” Mrs. Tozier frowns as Mike shrugs a bit.

“Well tell him we say hope he feels better. Thanks Mrs. Tozier” Mike waves her off heading back to the five waiting. “He’s sick. So let’s get going”

“He’s sick? Like. Whooping cough. Pneumonia?” Eddie continues to say more diseases and illnesses which resulted in Ben covering his mouth.

“Eddie. It’s probably just a cold. Calm down” Ben reassures as Eddie stopped talking which made him take his hands back. “Let’s go to school before we’re late”

Eddie frowns staring at the window which lead to Richie’s room as he knew exactly what he was gonna do. Richie on the other hand was watching him from the crack in the blinds.

“Richie you better be sleeping”

“Y-Yes mom” Richie takes a cough before getting comfortable and thinking about everything.

As the hours went by Stanley waited for Bill to walk home at his locker but he was distracted by the sight of a spastic Eddie ran through carrying Richie’s homework. He grabs his backpack causing him to drop everything.

“I SWEAR TO GOD”

“You need to slow down Eddie. This is a hallway. Not a track” Stan frowns helping him pick everything up and setting it in Eddie’s arms. “Going to give these to Richie?”

“Yeah. I went to all of his teachers and got his work. Mike helped me too since it was easier for him to grab homework from a class they have together. But he has the creepy chemistry teacher that I don’t understand completely but-“

“Calm down, breath. Overall you got his homework”

“Yes! Just one more class to go through the day then I can finally bring his work home”

“You’re stressing yourself out Eddie. Richie could’ve gotten the stuff himself and turned it in the next day”

“I just...He defended me earlier in the week to Bowers. It’s the least I can do to repay that”

Stanley smiles a bit patting his back laughing before spotting Bill.

“Well. Aren’t you sweet Eddie, now I gotta go” Stanley left him to his running in the halls as he goes back to Bill.

“Everything alright with Eddie?”

“Oh it’s just....love. I guess. I don’t know. Or a disease he thinks exist but doesn’t” Stan laughs as Bill kisses his cheek before taking his hand. “Oh?”

“Just. Start off slow. With being more open”

“Take your time Bill, I’m not going to rush you” Stan smiles happily walking beside him to their class.

When classes were finally over Eddie ran down the stairs to go to the bike rack finding Richie right there. Eddie frowns walking over catching Richie’s attention.

“Are you...what why are you here?”

“Um. I got a note saying to meet here. My mom gave it to me and check my temp so I could go. I..also came for my work-“

“I got that for you..” Eddie handed over Richie the folder of the homework before handing him his notebook. “You can borrow my notes...”

“Thanks Eds I-“

“PANSY FAIRY LOOKING ASSES” Bower smirks growling angrily at Richie. Richie instantly got in front of Eddie out of instinct.

“Leave us alone Bower”

“Oh? But don’t you want your note Richie? Don’t you want to know who the secret admirer is? I love teasing the faggots who are just....scum at this school”

Eddie tried to speak but Richie didn’t take it to heart. He was annoyed and felt many other things that isn’t upsetting him. Bower soon pushed him a bit to get a reaction as Eddie held onto Richie’s back thinking of pulling him back when Bower hit the limit.

“Come on bitch. You really think anybody would love your ass?”



“Bower-“

“You can’t even get that fucking E guy to like you” Bower smirks laughing as Richie takes his button shirt off the one Eddie was holding onto. “Oh? Pansy is getting rea-“

Richie suddenly socked him in the face watching Bower stumble to the ground before quickly getting back up. Richie rolled his sleeves up before getting tackled by Bower to the ground. Eddie stood defenseless as he was about to pry Bower off when Richie kicked him off before getting up and pushing him on the ground and pinning him.

“YOU ARENT ALLOWED TO SAY FUCKING SHIT” Richie punched Bower in the face again before being flipped to be the bottom only resulting in Richie being the punching bag.

“People. Like you. Need. To fucking. Disappear.” Each pause was another punch causing Richie’s glasses to break off at one point.

Richie caught his hand but the force caused a really loud snap to happen and him to suddenly start screaming in pain. Bower smirks enjoying his pain before suddenly getting kicked off by Mike and Ben as the two were standing guard while Bill helps Richie up while Stanley used his block ass phone to call the Toziers. Bev and Eddie finally ran out with an adult to take care of Bower. Eddie frowns looking at Richie as he felt overwhelmed with emotion. He watches Bill help Richie sit down keeping him in a sit up position. Eddie suddenly went on his knees next to Richie dropping his backpack going into it and taking out his intense first aid. Richie watches a bloody blurry version of Eddie as he soon felt gauze on his face.

“E....”

“Shut up Richie. Just let Eddie do what he can before who the fuck knows comes to help.”

“His parents are on there way...” Stanley frowns putting the block of a phone in his bag before taking his broken wrist into his hands making Richie suddenly grab Eddie’s thigh trying not to scream in pain and just squeezed. “Stop moving. Eddie you have that like....stretching bandage shit?”

“Of course I do!” Eddie grabbing that hand squeezing his thigh to have Richie hold the gauze on his face. He soon reaches in his box taking out the ace bandages helping Stanley stabilize his wrist.

“How in the hell do you freshmen know how to do all of this?” The teacher asks as the only school security guard took care of Bower.

“Trust us. You don’t wanna know” All except Richie said in unison.

“Well Tozier. Bower will be suspended and hopefully your parents will be here soon” The teacher states as he stays with the seven while Eddie kept a hold of Richie’s wrist in place.

“You’ll be okay...okay Richie?” Stanley tries to reassure as he watches Richie start laughing while the tears roll down his cheeks.

“I got played....s-so hard” Richie laughs as his smile faded while he continued to laugh.

After a couple hours The Losers Club rode their bikes to Richie’s house as his mother let them all in. Mike sets down the sodas on the end of his bed while Bev climbed in moving the pillow holding his left wrist up laying it over her lap and letting Richie rest his head on her lap. Ben sat in his desk chair resting his legs on the desk as Stanley sets down Richie’s broken glasses on the end table before sitting on the floor next to Bill. Eddie sat down on the loveseat at the edge of his bed looking at Richie and his upset expression.

“So your mom said we can sleep over cuz it’s Friday. If that’s cool with you we’d want to” Ben smiles a bit watching Richie nod before hiding his bandaged face in Bev’s stomach.

“Bower shouldn’t have only gotten suspended. He should’ve been expelled”

“How old is he anyway? Why the fuck is he still in high school”

“He’s an idiot don’t forget that”

“Fucking Bower...”

As the group was talking about it Richie stayed silent feeling a cold

hand resting on his ankle. Making him move his head and try to see who it is. He squints a bit noticing it's Eddie's cold ass hand. Richie tried sitting up but he went straight back down into the bed gripping onto his bed sheets. Bev frowns running her hand through his hair as the others stopped talking when they saw him go straight back down.

"You have a concussion?" Eddie asks frowning watching Richie nod before curling up a bit which meant Eddie let go of his ankle. "You...need to stay awake for a while. Just so...you don't die"

"That's an actual thing???" Ben questions which made Eddie start going on and on about how concussions work.

Richie watches the nerd talk their friends' ears off as he smiles a bit before hiding his face in the sheets.

## 5. Ch. 4

After a few hours have went by Bev laid in the bed, Stanley and Bill were together under their blankets, Mike slept under the window pane, Ben slept on the floor next to Bev, which left Richie on the couch in the living room and Eddie up from his spot in the bedroom to get water.

“Why are you awake....”

Eddie spooked easily seeing Richie staring at him as he squints from the dark.

“Who do you think it is?”

“Who could not recognize that voice Eds” Richie sat up cracking his back. “I’m not deaf”

“...well since you are awake...do you need anything?”

“Can...I get water please” Richie rubs his eyes as Eddie just decided to hand him his. “Eds You-“

“No it’s fine” Eddie smiles a bit as Richie moves his legs over to have Eddie sit with him which he did. “Gonna have people sign your cast. Maybe put a big loser on it as well?” He jokes a bit smiling happily hearing Richie laugh to that.

“If your mom wrote it I’d be cool with that” Richie laughs as Eddie nudges him rolling his eyes. “I’m an idiot if I’m being honest”

“Why? You didn’t-“

“I could’ve avoided a fight with Bower. I should’ve stayed home instead of finding out the person making those notes was an asshole”

“They really did a number on you huh?”

“What, the notes?”

“Yeah..”

“Mm...Not to sound all sappy but, it got my hopes up. For a moment” Richie frowns setting the glass down on the coffee table. “Makes me think about a lot. A lot that I can improve on. And or well...add to my character”

“I don’t think you need to add anything Richie” Eddie blushes turning away from Richie so he wouldn’t notice.

Richie stares at Eddie for a moment thinking to himself about something but before he could do anything the lights turned off showing Bill.

“You good Rich? Didn’t see Eddie so I thought you got hurt and he was the only one that heard”

“Nah. Eddie was just telling me about his hypochondriac ideas towards what happened to me. Y’know. The usual”

“Ah..okay okay. I guess. Anyway. Let’s all go back to bed. So we can at least do something tomorrow” Bill turns the lights off heading back as Eddie was about to when Richie grabbed his arm hesitantly.

“Yeah?”

“....can you stay out here? I..don’t want to be alone” Richie frowns as Eddie nods but he went to get his blankets first.

As the morning came Bev walks out seeing Richie sleeping comfortably on the couch and Eddie on the floor beside it. She smiles a bit staring for a while before getting startled by Ben grabbing her waist making her scream. The two woke up looking at Bev start hitting Ben’d chest.

“What just...?”

“Mm...” Richie went back down as he felt his face for a moment feeling blood. “Fucking shit” Richie got up to go change his dressings as Eddie slowly brought himself up before going to help.

Eddie found Richie staring at his beaten up face in the mirror. He stopped trying to bandage himself as he took a minute to think about what happened. Richie soon felt Eddie gently making him sit on the edge of the tub before grabbing all the necessary things to clean his wounds and bandage them.

“You don’t have to help me all the time yknow”

“You don’t either but you’re the one always in front of me taking the punches mostly meant for me sometimes”

“Hm. Okay. Fair then”

As Eddie was helping Richie the other losers were planning what to do that day.

“Lake?”

“Richie has a cast”

“Didn’t stop Eddie when he had one. Same for the sewer”

“Bev he has open cuts. Not to sound like Eddie. But he can get an infection going into the water”



“Well. Movie?”

“What movie is out there that we haven’t seen?”

“Hmmm. We could always watch Terminator 2 again”

“Richie has seen that three times-“

“I wouldn’t mind seeing it a fourth. Even though. Imma be blind for a bit” Richie laughs as Stanley nudges him handing him his glasses. Except one lens was cracked and the arms were tapped to the main frame. “Okay. Maybe only a little blind”

“How about we just go to the arcade? I still have some tokens” Mike suggests watching them all agree to it before going to check their bags if they have tokens.

Soon they were getting on their bikes about to head out as Richie thought to himself while he got on his bike. Eddie walked up next to him seeing him lost in his thoughts.

“You know if you lose your balance I’ll catch you right?”

“What?”

“I meant. One. One of us will catch you” Eddie says quickly as Richie laughs a bit seeing him get all spastic.

“Cmon Eds. How hard can it be riding a bike with a cast? You did it before. But then again. We don’t want to disappoint Ms. K so we gotta be careful”

“Oh shut up about my mom!”

“Okay okay” Richie smiles before starting to ride along with the others as he laughs a bit at the interaction.

Soon the seven were in the arcade as Mike suddenly shoves Richie into the photo booth while Stanley and Eddie stood in front of it.

“The fuck guys-“

“Shut up Richie” Eddie whispers as the losers hung around the photo booth hiding Richie pretty much from Bower who was walking with his friends on the way out of the arcade.

“Swear. That fucker got some new friends quickly after losing the other ones to Y’know” Bill rolls his eyes as he watches Mike check out to see that they were completely gone.

“Come out and play Richie~” Bev sings laughing a bit before taking Ben somewhere all to herself.

Richie steps out of the booth adjusting his glasses. “Only protecting me from getting hurt or me trying to do a number on him?”

“Both Rich” Mike states before tossing him a coin. “Street fighter?”

“You are so on Mikey” Richie laughs as the two went to play the game leaving Eddie with the couple.

Stanley nudges Eddie catching him out of a trance. “You good?”

“Yeah. Yeah yeah I am” Eddie stood up straight before quickly following the two to watch them play and hopefully join in a few rounds.

Leaving Bill to have his fun in the phone booth, bring Stanley in and immediately kissing him. Stanley didn’t reject the action as he gripped onto the taller one’s shirt keeping him there. Bill pulls away for a moment from hearing the door open checking if it wasn’t Bower. Stan laughs watching this action which made his lover confused.

“You care about your best friend, even when he almost died trying to defend himself. Or who knows who he was defending that day”

“It was yesterday. You talk like it was a week ago”

“Hm. The feelings could’ve been there for a while. But who really knows”

“What are you going on about?” Bill pulls the curtain closing them off from the others.

“You don’t see it? Eddie. Richie?”

“Wait. You think they might be something?”

“No I don’t think they are secretly hiding that they are together. I think they are hiding the feelings they have FOR EACH OTHER” Stanley states watching Bill go from confused to really confused. “We may not be the only gays here?”

“Ohhhhhh. Yeah no I don’t see it”

“Really? Eddie playing doctor and Richie being the patient. Richie being tough guy as Eddie is the weakling needing oh tough Richie to protect him from Bower and the psychotic clown. I can’t believe it took you a pact to realize my feelings for you but it’ll take you forever to realize their feelings”

“Feelings are hard to understand sometimes Stanley. They both are probably clueless”

“Like how you are sometimes?” Stanley jokes as Bill rolls his eyes before nodding in agreeing. “Hm. Well”

“We’ll find out sooner than later”

## 6. Ch. 5

Eddie started playing a few games against Mike as Richie was leaning against the machine watching everyone in the small arcade. He saw Bev and Ben enjoying themselves in the back as he knew he wasn't going to see Stanley and Bill anytime soon since they be doing who knows what in the photo booth.

"You wanna verse Eddie while I go get us a table at the diner?"

"Mike the diner literally has no one in it most days"

"Better safe then sorry" Mike smiles heading out and down the street.

Richie replaces Mike's spot putting in quarters as Eddie immediately picked Ken and Richie of course picked Cammy.

"She's not even that good"

"Bet?"

"FUCKING BET"

A few rounds later....

“I hate you Richie”

“No you don’t”

Eddie groans taking the last few quarters about to play again when he was suddenly grabbed by Bev to head out for lunch. Richie stayed for a moment staring at the screen remembering an old memory making him take a minute to collect himself. Stanley was about to go with the others before staying back to wait for Richie. Stanley knew almost everything Richie struggled with, but he didn’t know how he handled it.

Soon they were all sitting in a round booth as Bev was drawing a tiny heart on Richie’s cast while Stanley kept watching Richie’s blank upset expression.

“Thinking of leaving me for trashmouth?” Bill whispers in his ear making Stanley roll his eyes.

“Sureeee. I totally want to leave your cute ass. No. I’m just worried” Stanley frowns taking a sip of his water watching Eddie take the pen next.

“Whatcha gonna write Eddie spaghetti?” Richie suddenly lit up smiling as he watches Eddie write in big bold letters LOVER. He looks at him confused for the moment as Eddie finishes before handing the pen to Ben next. “Aren’t you sweet Eddie” he laughs smiling as that dumb smile never left his face.

As the loser club was enjoying themselves, Eddie watched Richie laugh and talk with all of their friends. He felt something in his chest as it wasn't pain. But he didn't know how to protect this...warm feeling.

"So I was thinking. We'd do this again. But at my place and we can watch movies until who knows how long" Ben suggests.

"Sounds good to me. But maybe when I don't have to cast anymore" Richie says calmly as they were all walking their bikes.

"We can play games too, and smoke outside" Bev adds as she held hands comfortably with Ben. "I can sleep in your bed~" she laughs making Ben blush.

"Well. This is where we split. See y'all at school" Bill smiles waving them off heading out on his street as Stanley went the same route. Mike went back as Bev and Ben went the same way. Leaving Eddie and Richie alone.

"Can I show you something Eds?"

"Sure?"

As Richie took the lead in riding his bike the way he's going as Eddie follows shortly. The two were riding for a while as it started to be sunset when they reached the bridge. Richie sets the bike off to the side walking over to the carvings in the bridge. Eddie started getting



nervous feeling his heart pound.

“I trust you more than some of the other losers. Well there’s Stan. But that goes deep. Anyway..” Richie stops at all the markings not going to point any of them out as he sighs turning to Eddie. “Eddie I-“

“I-Why are we here?”

“Eddie. I’m..gay” Richie blurts as Eddie looks at him with a little bit of a shocked expression but who knows what’s truly going on in his head. “And I...I just wanted a fat place from the neighborhoods to tell you...you’re my best friend”

“And you’re mine Richie....” Eddie states as the two were about to say more but they were startled by some raccoons scurrying in the bushes indicating it’s late besides the dark blue-ish sky.

“I just..wanted to tell you. But promise-“

“I won’t tell anyone Richie, that’s news for you to say” Eddie smiles happily as Richie returns the smile before getting on his bike and heading out.

Eddie stood there for a little while longer as tears formed in his eyes. He looks down at all the carvings finding the one he did.

Eddie soon took a seat by the fence taking a moment to himself to clear his head while he wasn't the only one crying.

Richie stopped his bikes when the neighborhoods met as he started balling.

“...I should've just shown him...then maybe..”

Just.

R + E

Maybe

## 7. Ch. 6

-1993-

“Richie my man!” A few randoms high five the strutting Richie with the even blockier glasses wearing his baseball jersey loud and proud.

“Heya Richie~” A trio of school girls giggle as Richie winks at them before meeting up with Mike and Bill.

“So, when are you going to take the truck out for a spin?”

“When my ID fucking comes in the mail” Bill complains to Mike as he laughs a bit. “Rich when are you gonna finish your old man’s car?”

“Hey. Don’t rush the art of fixing up an old car. Besides. I’m still getting a few pieces. So I’m stuck still delivery on my bike” Richie shrugs as the tall buff Ben walks over to the three leaning against the lockers. “How the fuck am I the skinny sports guy and you’re the buff book nerd?”

“Oh how things are Richie” Ben laughs a bit before taking Bev into his arms when she finally joined them.

“Where’s the loud and proud Stan?” She asks Bill mainly watching him shrug.

“He told me he’s with Eddie. So it’ll probably be a while” Richie answers for him as he leans up against the lockers himself. “Annnnd....Mikey when are you gonna ask out the cutie over there in the platformers?”

“When I finally grow a pair and ask her to the winter dance”

“Dances are for slumps!” Richie groans.

“That’s because you never have a date Richie” Stan laughs joining his club as Eddie follows shortly behind in a new sweater vest look with somewhat skinny blue jeans instead of red booty shorts.

“Damn Eddie. Adjusting to high school” Richie smirks a bit as Eddie rolls his eyes looking at him that when he looked away he gave off a small smile.

“So we going for lunch or chilling in the hall?” Eddie asks as Bill takes Stanley’s hand happily before leading the way for them all.

Richie started hitting cans off the lawn with his bat as the other losers were chilling on said lawn. Eddie kept watching Richie every now and then as the time he wasn’t watching he had his thoughts in his book. Stanley and Bill were staring at the two before Bill leaned into his ear.

“Where’s my money?”

“You bet so terribly. Giving them no hope at all” Stanley elbows Bill’s stomach forcing him to back off for the moment. “It takes time to confess feelings. Don’t force it” he whispers.

“I’m not forcing anything” He whispers angrily as Stanley rolls his eyes before kissing him lovingly to calm his temper which totally worked.

“We are juniors. High school ain’t over yet”

Richie suddenly stops hitting the cans as he stares at Bower resting on his car looking directly at him. Mike got up to draw Richie’s attention back to them so he wouldn’t do anything stupid like always.

“I fucking hate Bower.”

“We know, just sit down and eat something” Eddie states as Richie immediately sat beside him and taking some of his crackers.

“So. What’s the plan for this weekend?” Richie asks as he watches Ben sit up a bit.

“My place for a movie? Then y’all can sleep over after” Ben suggests as everyone already agreed to doing such. Since the losers stick together and they do have a lot of fun together.

Richie checks his watch quickly before getting up and grabbing his stuff.

“I’ll see y’all after school. Gotta go to practice”

“Can’t believe you have a class period for baseball”

“It’s PE, I get PE credits for my sports activity. So it’s a win win I guess”

“Hm. I skip PE to smoke anyway” Bev laughs a bit laying back in the grass as Richie was about to head off before quickly coming back and taking another cracker making Eddie roll his eyes smiling.

“Later dudes” Richie ran off hurrying to the baseball field.

As classes for lead in, Eddie sat by the window of his science class watching Richie on the field in his uniform. He leans on his hand watching as he was soon startled by Bev sitting beside him.

“Gazing?”

“Oh shut up Beverly”

“Awww you know you love me. I know your secrets~”

“You’re the only one that knows”

“Hmm. The gay part or the other one?”

“Everyone knows I came out. At least to you guys. I think I’d give my mother a heart attack if I tell her”

“Mm. Your mom is sweet. I think she’ll be fine” Bev smiles taking out her notebook as she moves Eddie’s textbook to be in the middle of the lab to share. “You know you could always tell him right?”

“I don’t even think he likes me. So. I’d rather keep it to myself for a while...” Eddie frowns as Bev shrugs a bit. “Gotta be easier for a cute girl like you”

“You are cute too Eddie! But thank you, and you know I’m happy with Ben. Even when I like being the dominant one”

“I hate that you phrased it like that” Eddie laughs a bit with Bev.

Richie caught the ball moving his attention to the window seeing Eddie laugh watching his perfect smile. He smiles before suddenly getting tackled by his teammates to pay attention.

“Come on Rich. Pay attention. The best pitcher has gotta pay attention or you’ll end up being the one on the bench”

“Yeah Couch Greg, Hear you loud and clear” Richie salutes before adjusting his cap after getting help up. “Okay let’s do rotations” he states as he was co captain with a kid name Ryan.

After that class period was over Richie dressed back into his usual attire of skinny navy jeans, converse, a random band t, and of course his baseball jersey. He walks into his English class looking around before smiling when he found Eddie in the back pointing to the open seat.

“He’s writing down the seating chart by how we are seating at the moment. So if you want to sit with someone you know...then sit next to me” Eddie smiles a bit watching Richie sit in the desk next to him happily. “How was practice?”

“Ah! Good good. We have a game next weekend. Hoping the Losers can come and see me play. But that’s up to y’all if you want to. I’m not gonna force you”

“You know we are going to come. Can’t leave a loser alone am I right?” Eddie smiles at Richie which gave him a warm feeling in his chest.

“Alright class lets begin” The teacher states as he starts writing notes on the board.



Richie was immediately copying the notes as he wrote and said them. So was Eddie but Eddie kept glancing over every now and then smiling to himself for many reasons.

“Maybe you can let one of the losers wear your jersey during your game. Since you don’t wear the one you’re wearing on field” Eddie blurts out loud realizing as he hides his blush away from Richie when Richie was enjoying the pink across his cheeks.

“If you’re gonna be there, you can wear it Eddie spaghetti”

“Can’t believe you still fucking call me that” Eddie whispers before laughing a bit.

“I call you a lot of things. Like son cuz Y’know. Your mom and I are gonna get married” Richie jokes making Eddie a tad mad before watching him fake a laugh.

“Ha ha...veryyyy funny Richie”

“SHH” A fellow classmates snaps as Richie rolls his eyes before going back to his work.

As classes lead out for the day Eddie immediately grabbed Beverly dragging her somewhere just the two of them as the other losers looked at them confused.

“Are you going to the baseball game...to Y’know support Richie?”

“Yeah of course. Losers stick together”

“I want to wear his jersey to...Y’know”

“Show people that your his?”

“nO?!”

“That’s a lie. It’s exactly what you want. And he’ll probably will give it to you.”

“He said that ill wear it if I go but if we all are going who the fuck knows who else wants to wear it. You understand what I’m talking about right?”

“Eddie. Calm the fuck down” Bev rests her hands on his shoulders staring directly at him. “Calm. Down”

“Hghhhhh BEVVVV” Eddie groans before suddenly getting smacked.  
“WHY”

“CALM DOWN. That is all” Bev laughs letting go of him. “Now come on”

The losers all rode to Mike's barn to hang out that afternoon.

"We could always hang in the clubhouse"

"Not until Ben stabilizes it more. We almost got caved in that one time remember?" Bev laughs as Ben blushes frustratedly. "Oh hun. You know you're a perfect builder. Just be more careful how you stabilize things"

"Richie get out of the hammock"

"Oh god not this again" Mike face palms as Stanley watches Richie slip out of the hammock falling on the ground. "Oh. That went smoother then expected"

"Fuck" Bev groans hiding behind the haystacks Stanley was sitting on.

Stanley leaves over looking at her lighting a cig. "What's the fuck for?"

"Eddie. They are two gay disasters waiting to happen"

"WHAT THE FUCK"

The two suddenly look over finding Richie suddenly laying on top of Eddie not giving a damn as Eddie starts blushing like crazy. Bev gives him a thumbs up as Richie looked at Stanley smiling a bit before hiding his face in Eddie's chest.

“God. You're right about the disaster part. But hey at least something good happened right?”

“They are still crazy” Bev laughs a bit before going to head outside so she doesn't accidentally light the barn on fire.

Eddie looks down at Richie watching him try and get comfortable. He immediately lifted his head taking his glasses off and dropping them on his backpack. Eddie instantly wraps his arm around Richie as he used his other to hold up his book. Richie smiles a bit resting more comfortably.

“Where's my money Baby” Stanley smiles teasingly as Bill tackles him on the haystack making them both laugh.

“Still haven't won anything” Bill smiles kissing him happily as the two didn't care for the straw getting on their clothes and in their hair.

Eddie watches the two from the hammock as he looks down at Richie seeing how peaceful he is. He frowns a bit wishing he could have more but he didn't know how to tell his feelings and this moment just seemed like a two bros kind of deal.

## 8. Ch. 7

“See you later guys!” Mike waves off his fellow losers. Bill and Stan went to go do their own thing as Ben took Bev home before going home himself.

Leaving our two lovelies alone on their way home...

Richie rode beside Eddie as the two weren't talking most of the ride back to their homes. But when they reached the corner where Eddie goes a different direction, Richie stops him quickly to take off his jersey and hand it to him.

“Wear it at my game, or well. Whenever you want to” Richie smiles winking at Eddie before heading off.

Eddie stood there watching him go before breaking out in a full on blush holding onto his jersey not knowing what to do with it right then and there. That when he came home with it he laid it on the bed staring for a long time wondering why Richie gave it to him earlier than expected.

As a few days went by leading to the day they were all going to go over to Ben's after. Eddie hesitantly walks into the hallway of the junior's lockers scanning for his as he wore Richie's jersey where many stare at Eddie and how nervous he was wearing the thing labeled Tozier on the back. Eddie opens his locker grabbing his books as someone approached him.

“Yo Tozier!” A fellow teammate grabs Eddie’s shoulder causing him to fully retract and his head against his own locker. “Oh shit. Sorry Kaspbrak. Thought you were Rich”

“He’s fucking taller then me. And my hair isn’t even curly?!”

“Chill. Chill...” He soon walks off as Eddie stood still soon shaking from that embarrassing thing to have happened.

“You good spaghetti?” Richie frowns asking the nervous one as Eddie closes his locker suddenly only causing a blushing reaction from Richie. “Wearin the jersey”

“Yeah...someone mistaken me for you”

“Hm. That’s kind of funny”

“H-How...”

“I thought they’d think you’re mine instead of just mistaking you for me” Richie straight up told Eddie watching him blush a tad. “Come on. I’ll walk you to class. Since I have morning practice in fifteen”

“You’re going to smell like a boys locker room when you’re done”

“Hey at least I get to spend the entirety of lunch with the losers club right? Besides. There’s showers here” Richie says calmly walking with Eddie.

“Y’know me wearing your jersey is totally a boyfriend thing correct?”

“Yeah, I know. But that doesn’t stop me from wanting you to wear it. Besides. You look good in it” Richie says calmly as he opens the door to Eddie’s class. “I’ll see you with the other losers during lunch?”

“Of course Richie” Eddie smiles going into his class as Richie stopped for admire for a minute before frowning and leaving for practice.

Richie stood in place on the field as he pitched a few balls before getting hit directly by one. He zoned out for a minute and this happens. He landed on his knees scattering a bit for his glasses as a few of his teammates went to help him.

“Take a breather Tozier, someone take him to the nurse for ice. Can’t have our best pitcher injured before the game next week” the coach states as the co captain Ryan was the one who helped Richie up taking him to the nurse’s.

“I could’ve gone alone yknow”

“Oh come on Rich. You know if you were to collapse coach would be mad if no one was there”

“Okay. But that’s highly unlikely.”

“Mm. Fine yeah I guess” Ryan rolls his eyes smiling as Richie saw the nurse being preoccupied. “Guess we’re waiting”

“You can go back Ryan. No need to stay with me”

“I’d like to, just to make sure you’re completely alright” Ryan smiles as Richie felt a tad uncomfortable.

The nurse took a step out after letting the student she was taking care of go back to class. She gestures Richie as he goes in with her while Ryan waited.

After a while Richie waited by his locker holding an ice pack to his face as he looked over to some of his teammates finding Ryan looking him up and down which made him immediately turn around finding a very angry looking Eddie staring at him.

“What the fuck did I do?”

“Nothing! I’m just mad at my speech class. It’s fucking whatever” Eddie groans before finally realizing the ice pack. “Now you’re just an idiot”



“I get that all the time. But this time it was a baseball”

“Better not fucking get hurt on Game Day” Eddie crosses his arms angrily as Richie smiles a bit before wrapping his arm around him and heading to their table in the cafeteria with the other losers.

Ryan watches them go by making him slightly angry before going off to do his own thing.

Eddie sat right beside Bev as she was checking him out looking at the jersey before smirking.

“If you’re gonna tease me I’m gonna smack you”

“Eddie. You are a gentleman. You won’t smack me. You’d yell. But that’s it”

“...Why do you know me so well”

“You’re an open book honey” Bev laughs a bit as she continues to admire. “So does this make you two....?”

“No. I’m still confused about it as you are” Eddie rests his head on the table as Bev just watches him internally scream while Ben came back setting down the usual mystery meat from the cafeteria.

“Is eddie okay?”

“He’s just a gay panic. No need to worry” Bev pats Eddie’s back hearing him exhale a groan.

“So. You gave Eddie your jersey. Does this mean??”

“No Stan. I wish it did. But who the fuck knows” Richie grabs an apple only having that as Stanley bought him an overall lunch instead of having the skinny ass twig already only have an apple. “I just. How the fuck am I supposed to say my feelings Stan?”

“That. I don’t know what to do. Since I just straight up said I like you and now he’s my boyfriend.” Stan hands Richie his tray before taking his own. “Ask Ben or Mike. They’ve had better experiences”

“Why not ask Bill?”

“He’s a panic gay who stuttered the entire time he tried to confess. So please. I wouldn’t ask him” Stanley laughs a bit before setting his lunch down across from Bev as Richie was across Eddie.

“You don’t eat lunch” Eddie straight up tells him as Richie shrugs.

“Stanley is just a worried mother and is feeding my skinny ass” Richie states getting elbowed really hard making him laugh. “I still like stealing your lunch sometimes Eds” he comments as Bev watches

Eddie start blushing before slamming his head into the table staying there.

“There he goes. He’s fine” Bev pats his back as Richie moves his tray before resting his head on the table looking toward Eddie. “The fuck are you now doing?”

“Something stupid” Richie reaches for one of his carrots before sticking it in his mouth spitting it at Eddie causing him to have a dramatic reaction.

“IM GOING TO FUCKING HIT YOU” Eddie quickly got up as does Richie but he got a head start running as Eddie had to run around their table.

“Panicked gays” Stan and Bev said in unison before looking at each other.

“Richie is gonna do something stupid”

“True”

As Eddie was chasing Richie down the halls and soon into the yards. Richie brought him to under the bleachers staying out and tripping Eddie when he thought Richie didn’t stop.

“RICHIE”

Richie immediately topped Eddie for the moment as the two stare for a while. None of them wanted to move. But none of them knew what to do in that moment.

“Richie...”

“Shut up Eds...” Richie suddenly closed the space kissing the nerd underneath him. He held the kiss for the moment before parting when the bell was rung. “I...” he got up quickly becoming an extremely blushing mess as Eddie propped himself up a bit blushing a dark red. “I...I um..we have class”

“I’ll...see you in last period...?”

Richie nods continuing to blush but as he took a few steps to head back inside. He came back helping Eddie completely up and kissing his temple before suddenly running inside. This panic gay didn’t know what he just did, but as he ran inside he couldn’t stop smiling. Same with the other panic. Who couldn’t stop smiling since it happened.

### **Notes for the Chapter:**

I’m having a lot of personal struggle that it’s honestly probably going to reflect a bit in this story. My apologizes in advance.

## 9. Ch. 8

“YOU ACTUALLY?!” Bev smiles at her nervous gay bestie panicking.

“HE DID IT. BUT NO FEELINGS WERE CONFESSED IT JUST HAPPENED”

“Oh my god. I’m so proud!!” Bev hugs Eddie tightly at their table squealing a bit. “Next is the confession and who the fuck knows what he’ll say!” She parts watching Eddie blush even more and smiling to that hopefully soon fact.

“Oh my god” Stanley stares at Richie’s dark red face as he was shaking from what he just did. “You grew a pair”

“SHUT THE FUCK UP STANLEY”

“What? You kissed Eddie aren’t you happy?”

“Yes but I didn’t confess my fucking feelings”

“Did he?”

“NO”

“Then calm down. It’ll come naturally after what you just did.” Stanley stares at Richie watching him fidget as he laughs a bit to himself. “You wouldn’t be shaking if you had eaten lunch”

“STAN”

“Okay okay. I’ll drop it. But come on you never shut up about Eddie when you and I would just hang out. Maybe the sleepover y’all can I don’t know. Confess feelings or try something? Yeah it can be hard but not that hard”

“Fuck. Fuck. Fuck.”

“Hey. Breath Richie” Stanley rests his hand on his back watching him hide his face in the desk while class continued. “Man. I can’t wait to hear you losing the v card to Eddie” he laughs soon getting punched in the stomach to shut up but Stanley wouldn’t stop laughing as Richie continued to blush like an idiot.

After a few hours it was the final class of the day as Richie waited patiently outside Eddie’s class to walk with him to their last. Eddie turned the corner getting spooked not thinking Richie was there.

“Sorry Eds”

“No no...it’s fine” Eddie laughs a bit before blushing. “Are we going to class...?”

Richie got out of his daze before nodding. The two start walking as Richie instantly wrapped his arm around Eddie's shoulders. Eddie blushes even more watching Richie blush like an idiot. The two make it to their class taking their seats as Eddie watched Richie rest his head on his desk looking at him.

"Do....you regret?"

"Not one bit" Richie smiles making Eddie continue to have that blush on his face.

As their last class of the day was going really slow, the teacher assigned a partner project to read a book then present it to everyone. Of course having question guidelines on the board that Eddie was already writing down.

"Okay. Pick your partners then when class gets out come up here and write it down on the board who you and your partner are" The teacher says calmly as Richie got up to move his chair right next to Eddie.

"So what book you wanna do?"

"Fahrenheit 451"

"Want me to head to the library to get copies before we head to

Ben's?"

"I'll have Bill wait for us. He brought his truck" Eddie smiles as Richie took his notebook out copying off Eddie to take the questions down so it'd look like he's working.

Eddie suddenly ran his hand through Richie's hair like it was instinct. Richie looked up at him watching his retract blushing deeply.

"Well"

"Huh?"

"Aren't you cute" Richie smiles blushing himself as he made Eddie explode a bit.

Finally classes were over as Eddie sat in Bill's trunk with Stanley and Mike while Bev and Ben were in the main seating with Bill in the drivers. They were all waiting for Richie as Eddie grew a bit impatient that was noticeable.

"He'll get here soon. We have all the time in the world" Stanley reassures as Eddie was about to get out when the three watch Richie toss his duffel bag into the trunk where they sat before jumping in.

Richie leans over bringing up the door before crawling next to Eddie.  
"Let's go cap"



“Beep beep Richie” Bill starts the truck as Richie leans over the edge having the rush of the wind clearing his head.

Leaving the three in the back somewhat concerned. Eddie especially.

“Did you get the books Rich?”

“Oh!...Yeah yeah. I did” Richie brings himself back going into his backpack handing Eddie the book. “I couldn’t...get the second one”

“Well I’ll get it Monday then. Or we can just share the one”

“I...I don’t know” Richie smiles nervously before the truck hit a bump causing him to jump a bit in the air before slamming back down.

Mike started laughing with Stanley as it was kind of funny that he didn’t bother holding onto anything. Eddie on the other hand immediately took Richie into his embrace keeping him grounded in the truck. Richie held onto Eddie’s arms as they continued on the ride.

“So we are thinking movies and games of course. I got my console on me and I had Ben hold it so it wouldn’t fly up like Richie” Mike says calmly as Richie gives him a stare making them both laugh.

“Fuck dude. I don’t know. I like the sound of a movie. But maybe before we go to sleep. Whenever that’ll be” Stanley suggests as Mike agrees.

“Tell the other three when we park” Eddie says calmly as he looks down at Richie for a moment.

“Nice double chin Eddie spaghetti”

“Okay no” Eddie lets go right when another bump happens making Richie go flying a bit as the three laugh.

Soon they arrive at Ben’s as everyone got out of the truck and immediately went inside to already start some kind of riot. Lowkey not really just causing a mess already even if Ben can be the organized type.

“...shit” Eddie heard his beeping digital watch go off as he got up to go into the kitchen when Richie got up.

“Pill time?”

“Yeah...”

“Glasses are still in the same cupboard haystack?” Richie asks Ben watching him nod as he takes out games. “Alrighty. Come on Eds”

After helping Eddie, Richie sat on the counter watching the others from the kitchen as he soon watched Eddie join him on the counter. He smiles a bit to himself as Eddie sets the glass down coughing a bit which suddenly triggered something in Richie's head.

---

EDDIE

EDDIE

STAY WITH ME

---

Richie covers his mouth quickly catching Eddie's attention.

"Richie-" He was about to rest his hand on Richie's shoulder but watched him jump down running to the bathroom.

## 10. Ch. 9

“Who’s checking up on him?”

“I-“

“No Eddie. I will”

“Oh...okay okay. That seems best...anyway”

Stanley left the group in the living heading toward the bathroom. He knocks not getting a response as he checks to see if it’s open. Which in this case it was. As Stanley opens the door he looks at Richie laying in the tub staring at the ceiling with tears in his eyes.

“Richie”

“Do you get nightmares...or sudden thoughts...that make you fear change and the future”

“That’s kind of very dark coming from you” Stanley walks over sitting on the rim of the tub looking at Richie’s puffy eyes. “....I have nightmares of it killing Bill. Every time we have a fight. And sometimes it feels too real”

“I...I was just enjoying a bit of time with Eddie. And I got this

suddenly image in my head of him being...impaled...by that fucking clown...and god” Richie pushes his glasses up to cover his eyes as he starts crying even more.

Stanley soon smacks Richie’s side to have him move over in the tub as he slides in next to him. He lets him cry it out not butting in with anything he’s got on his mind. Richie soon gives off a long exhale as he coughs a bit choking on his own tears.

“I...I really really like him Stan”

“I know...and he’ll be safe. I promise you that much. He’s got the loser club. No one can beat us”

“Hnnnn...I would ask you to promise me but last time I did that my dad left my family” Richie frowns relaxing a bit as Stanley sat up looking down at Richie.

“You never said anything to me about that. And I’m your best friend”

“Sometimes, I’m afraid to talk about certain things. Because it makes....me realize that it actually happened. It’s real. And I’m the one paying for it” Richie sits up feeling a bit dizzy from laying in the tub and from vomiting.

“You don’t have to suffer in silence. Even if you don’t want to tell everyone you care about. You can just tell me” Stanley pats his back watching Richie nod. “Now splash your face with water before you

come out”

“On it boss” Richie jokes as Stanley rolls his eyes before getting out of the tub then heading out.

Stanley got out finding Eddie standing at the end of the hall. He walks over next to him watching how nervous Eddie was getting.

“Sorry for not letting you check up on him”

“No no. It’s fine. Honestly I didn’t know what to tell him...”

“Well, now you can go see him” Stanley smiles before going to help Mike set up his console.

Eddie watches him go before walking toward the bathroom and opening the door. He stops at the door frame watching Richie wash his face. Richie fully stood up seeing a blurry Eddie from the mirror.

“Hey”

“Hi” Eddie walks in closing the door behind him making his way over to Richie grabbing his glasses and drying them off with his shirt.

“You don’t have to do that”

“I know. I want-...” Eddie stood and stares at Richie lift his shirt up drying his face with it. “I wanted to...”

Richie stops fixing his shirt before watching Eddie out his glasses on for him. Richie rested his hands on Eddie’s hips feeling Eddie instantly wrap his arms around his neck.

“Are you okay?”

“Of course...”

“Don’t lie to me trashmouth”

Richie stares at Eddie before nodding and resting his head on the smaller one’s shoulder.

“Need a minute before we go back?”

“Mhm...”

After a couple hours, everyone was in their pajamas and getting ready to watch a movie. Eddie sat on one end of the couch bringing his knees in getting comfy as Bev and Mike sat on the other end leaving space for of course Richie. Richie came back with popcorn setting the bowl in Bev’s arms before taking a seat in between her

and Eddie.

“So horror or comedy?” Ben asks as he took out a few movies with Bill sitting beside him for the moment to pick one.

“Let’s do horror” Mike suggests as Bev seconds it instantly. “Any objections Rich? Eddie?”

“I’m good with whatever Mike the man” Richie smiles before looking over to Eddie. “You cool with it Eds?”

“..Yeah I’m good”

“Okay then we’ll watch Tremors then” Bill says calmly handing Ben the VHS. He got up going to the single seat and sitting down before holding Stanley who slid in his arms.

As the movie was playing through, everyone was getting comfy. Eddie didn’t focus on the movie as he focused on Richie’s free hand getting tempted.

‘Is he...or should I...’ Richie thought as he watched Eddie bring his hand down to his hand’s level.

But before Eddie could, Richie brought picked up the popcorn bowl bringing it into his lap when he watches Bev and Mike get up.



“Bed already?”

“Do you not see the time Tozier” Bev laughs a bit. “Yes. I’m gonna go to bed”

“I’m seconding that action. And I think Bill and Stan already” Mike laughs a bit patting the single seat indicating that it’s empty before leaving with Bev.

“Staying haystack?” Richie asks setting the bowl down on the floor before taking advantage of the more space.

“Yeah. We’ll finish it then head upstairs” Ben smiles leaning back against the chair as he’s been sitting on the floor.

As the three were watching Eddie looked over at Richie seeing him lay completely down on the couch keeping his knees bent so he wouldn’t bump Eddie. Richie flinches a bit feeling Eddie move his legs to rest in his lap. Richie smiles a bit as the movie ends a half hour later.

“Okay. Goodnight guys” Ben smiles turning the tv off before going upstairs leaving the two alone in the dark.

Eddie moves Richie’s legs to get up. “We should go to bed” as he walks a little bit toward the stairs soon getting blocked by Richie’s

leg. "Move Richie"

"But why not stay down here a little..."

"...um"

"Eddie-"

"What..what are we?"

"What do you mean?"

"I think it's obvious" Eddie frowns watching Richie stand on his feet.

"Obvious?"

"That I like you, and that I hope for the same feelings back. But honestly sometimes I think you're playing me..." Eddie frowns feeling all kinds of emotions as he felt Richie take his hand and rest it over his heart.

"It's...hard explaining all my feelings. Especially when they are so strong. I really...really like you so much that like is underrated for how much you mean to me" Richie frowns feeling Eddie move on the couch as he immediately sat beside him.

“You have no idea...”

“About...”

“How much you meant to me before you came out...You aren't just a person or a baseball player or whatever others think of you. You're...my Richie Tozier”

“Can...never mind”

“What Richie...?”

“...Can I hold you, I know it's a weird ask but-“

“You can. But I don't want someone to randomly-“

“I don't think anyone is gonna wake up and come down here any time soon” Richie says calmly feeling Eddie push him down into the couch and laying down on top of Richie.

Richie wrapped his arms around Eddie holding him close and hiding his face into his neck. Eddie relaxes happily in his arms as they stayed in that embrace for a little while longer. Eddie lifts himself up from the embrace as Richie sat up bringing him up to lean against the arm rest as Eddie still straddled him. Richie looks at him for the

moment before grabbing his face and kissing him suddenly. Richie brought Eddie closer by moving his arms to wrap around his waist pushing him into himself. Eddie didn't object as he brought his arms around his neck enjoying such action.

This lasted for a good five minutes before Eddie pulled away blushing heavily. Richie held him there staring for a while as Eddie took one of his hands holding it with both of his.

"Does this mean..?"

"I'd like for it to be..but I don't want it out in the open"

"Even when you and I both have best friends that probably know"

"Mm..they won't know much. Just.." Eddie traces his fingers over Richie's palm. "Like to take things slow. But I like this.."

"You have soft hands..."

"And you have calluses from baseball and working on your old man's car. But proves your skinny ass can be strong" Eddie smiles watching Richie take a hold of his hand and kissing the top of it. He soon let's go to rest his hand on Richie's face. "You know even if I want to take things slow you can still talk to me. But trust me more"

"Then you trust me more"

“Deal” Eddie smiles before getting up taking his hands and walking with him upstairs. “Don’t wake up the others...”

“Promise, but” Richie grabbed Eddie once they reached the second floor to bring him close and against the wall kissing him lovingly.

Eddie tried parting but Richie just loved this too much. “Mm..Rich-“

“Mm..what?” Richie parts as he starts kissing Eddie’s cheek before moving to his shoulder.

“We can do more tomorrow. I’ll come over. Let’s just get some sleep”

“Mmmmm but Eddie”

“Don’t but Eddie me, you won’t like me without any sleep in my system” Eddie snickers before opening the door slowly noticing Bill and Stan were gone. “Hm. Guess we aren’t the only ones enjoying ourselves” he whispers walking in heading to his sleeping bag with Richie following quietly.

“Do you think we’ll be perfect like Stan and Bill?” Richie whispers taking his glasses off as Eddie nods.

“We will be more than perfect” Eddie smiles before getting comfy

and falling asleep.

Richie looks at him carefully and only for a little while longer before trying to get sleep for himself.

The next morning came as everyone but Richie was in the kitchen. Stanley sat beside Eddie setting down a bowl for him and himself. He started pouring himself a bowl of cereal as Eddie points to the hickey but on himself so Stanley knows to cover it up.

“Thanks”

“Of course” Eddie smiles a bit before yawning as Bill sat across from him on the island.

“So. We are still down for today?”

Shit. Eddie forgot he had plans already with Stanley and Bill that when they continued to talk about it. An extremely tired Richie came out staring at the three.

“Take a picture it’ll last longer” Stanley notices the staring as Richie heard the last part confirming plans. “Richie?”

Richie draws back to the thought before smirking. “I wonder what you did last night”

“Shut up its a mosquito bite...” Stanley covers the hickey as Richie laughs a bit walking over next to Bill and patting his back.

“What a big mosquito” Richie laughs before getting water.

After a few hours Richie walks Eddie home as Eddie noticed his upset expression.

“Hey. I promise I’ll come over after. Won’t take long”

“Yeah yeah”

“Richie, I promise” Eddie took his hand into his for the moment as Richie blushes a tad bit before he could do anything. The two split when hearing Ms. K screaming for Eddie. “That’s...my que”

“Hm. I’ll see you later then” Richie gives off a half smile before going ahead as Eddie watches him leave frowning.

Richie....

Richie.....

Richard...

“Rich!”

Richie turns around looking at Eddie as he gave off a warming smile. Which of course made four eyes smile lovingly.



## 11. Ch. 10

“So we aren’t telling Richie that we are going all out for his game. Inviting his baseball friends and shit over to Mike’s barn. If he wins or lose we are still gonna give him a great time. Alright?” Stanley double checks as everyone nods. “Okay then let’s plan who’s doing what. I suggest Eddie keeping Richie distracted while we leave right as the game ends to make sure everything is in order”

“Well Richie is gonna wonder where we are even if it’s just me there”

“I highly doubt. But we all agree on Eddie doing so right?” Stan asks as they all agree while Eddie checked his watch for a moment. “Got somewhere to go Eddie?”

“No, just checking the time is all” Eddie rests against the wall at Stan’s.

“Well I have to go study for a dumbass math test. So how much longer or can we talk about this during lunch periods where Richie leaves early to practice”

“Yeah we can talk then but we also need all the time we can get since thirty minutes won’t cut it sometimes” Bill states as Mike agrees.

“Plus if we are gonna do it at the barn. I need some of y’all to come put it all together”

“We can since we don’t have a last period” Bev suggests for her and Ben to help as he was going to agree non the less.

“Okay then we can now just do our own thing. But I’ll let y’all know tomorrow at lunch what we all need to bring” Bill says calmly as everyone else left besides him and Stanley. “So, where were we?”

“I swear” Stanley laughs a bit as Bill smiles before kissing him lovingly.

Meanwhile Eddie walks into Richie’s open garage finding him under his old man’s car working away. He kicks the roll out board before hearing a loud thud coming from under the car.

“Fuck” Richie rolls out rubbing his head resting there for the moment. He sat up taking off his headphone to his Walkman before looking up at Eds. “When did you get here”

“I just got here a minute ago” Eddie moves a few things off the counter before jumping on it taking a seat.

“How was...what you were doing with Stanley”

“Richie it was just looking over college apps”

“Mhm...surrreee” Richie teases as he gets up about to hug Eddie when he stopped Richie. “Damn. Can’t believe you played me to be in

a poly relationship”

“No! You just need to clean up a bit before you hug me” Eddie smiles watching Richie fake a defeated look before going to the tool cabinet grabbing the rag and cleaning his hands off. “Thought you were working on the car with your old man. Seems like a father son thing. I wouldn’t know so”

“Mm. I..just do it by myself. Have Mike over sometimes to help” Richie frowns tossing the rag back on the cabinet.

“You okay Rich?”

“Yeah, I am with you here” Richie smiles leaning over Eddie a bit feeling his soft hands rest on his face happily.

But before Richie could do anything. The two parted from when the door leading to inside the house opened revealing Richie’s mother in a not so happy mood.

“Your fucking father is coming home today. Better get your shit together before he comes through that door”

Richie frowns nodding as the two flinch when she shut the door really harshly.

“Thought your mom was nice”

“She’s nice to you six. Doesn’t mean she’s nice to me. But that means our time is cut short...I’ll see you school Monday?” Richie frowns as Eddie gets off the counter about to hug him when Richie suddenly refuses. “I’ll...walk you home?”

Eddie didn’t know what to say after witnessing that as he only nods before giving off a warm smile trying to get Richie to. Richie immediately took his hand and started walking with Eddie.

“Rich..”

“I wish you never see that again. Okay?”

“Okay...”

As the two soon reach Eddie’s stop, Richie inches closer to Eddie before resting his head on his shoulder feeling Eddie instantly wrap his arms around his neck. Richie wrapped his arms around his waist not saying a word and enjoying this.

“You can talk to me..”

“I know..”

“You better”

“Mm...” Richie parts a little looking over not finding Ms. K looking outside giving him the small opportunity to give a short kiss to Eddie.

“Call me later Richie”

“I’ll try” Richie smiles parting from him running back to his place as Eddie only watches with full worry in his system.

Monday came around as Bill drove his truck over to Richie’s. He was with Stanley which was the one who wanted to pick him up in the first place. Stanley got out to go knock on the door when Richie instantly opened the door staring at Stan.

“Ready?”

“...I need a minute”

“Okay. We’ll wait” Stanley frowns watching the door shut harshly.  
“Hm...”

As Stanley was now waiting by the truck as Bill looks down at his worried partner from the window.

“Is he alright?”

“I hope so. His old man’s new car is here. Probably has to do with that”

“He’s having troubles with his old man?”

“Shit. Don’t say anything”

“...But you don’t know much”

“True but still shut up”

“Okay okay” Bill frowns as the two soon draw their attention to the irritated Richie running over to them tossing his sports bag in the trunk before jumping into the trunk himself. “There’s a third seat Rich-“

“I want to smoke and I know you don’t want to breath it in...”

“Okay, well get in Stan” Bill says calmly adjusting back in his seat and start the car when Stanley buckles.

The two look at each other worried for the one in the back. Who didn’t even crack a joke.

## 12. Ch. 11

### Notes for the Chapter:

This is just the beginning of stuff relating with Suicide and self harm. I'm giving my warning before and after this chapter.

"Hey did Richie come in with you two?" Beverly asks from the lockers when Stanley and Bill finally got inside.

"He..is still in the trunk I think"

"Stan" Bev frowns. "Your face speaks louder than your actual words"

"I don't know if he's alright or not. He was fine this Saturday then something happened. I don't know what it is exactly"

"Well you better figure it out and report. We don't need one of our losers upset" Bev states before seeing Eddie about to enter the school when he turned around. "Guess Eddie found Rich"

Eddie indeed did, but he was very hesitant heading over to the trunk of Bill's truck to confront him. He was a bit upset about Richie not calling him like he said he would but he decided to put that past him for now.

"Hey"

“Hey Eddie” Richie tosses the cig knowing Eddie wouldn’t like the smell. He looks over to him watching him lean against the car. “Run into any of the other losers yet?”

“No, but I think they saw me took a few steps in before coming back out to you” Eddie climbs into the trunk sitting next to Richie. “Everything alright?”

“It’s hard to talk about”

“Hm. Try me”

“I came out to my parents. Two weeks ago”

“I thought-“

“That I came out way before I came out to you and the others? No. I didn’t know how my parents would react and I just ripped the bandage. Um..they didn’t take it well” Richie frowns rubbing his eyes so the build up of emotions who release as tears. “I don’t want to scare you if you haven’t told your mom Eddie. I just. Realllllly wish it went easier”

“My mom knew”



“Huh?”

“My mom knew when we started hanging out more than just the group. But that was...wayyy before we confessed feelings toward each other”

“So you really didn’t have to like” Richie stood in the trunk pretending for a moment. “Boom. I’m gay” he pretended to open a door indicating the closet.

Eddie laughs a bit resting his head on the rim of the trunk. “Nope. My mom was just curious why I never brought girls home other than Bev and she knew Ben has a thing for her. It’s now just more of a situation where I want to wait before I PROFESSIONALLY introduce you to my mom. Not like the other times”

“I don’t need a professional introduction where I’ve already been places” Richie smirks getting kicked in the shin as a response from Eddie. “Owwwww whyyyyy...”

“You know if your situation ever gets bad you can hide out at my place”

“I’ll take that into mind. But I’ll most likely hide in Mike’s barn without anyone noticing”

“Well I will Y’know. Cuz you just told me” Eddie laughs a bit as Richie shrugs smiling feeling a bit better.

“Well..we should head inside shouldn’t we?” Richie states as he gets out of the trunk holding his hand out for Eddie.

Eddie jumps out after taking Richie’s hand so he wouldn’t face plant on his way out. Richie lets go to grab his backpack and baseball gear.

“I wish you didn’t have to practice all week”

“Well it’s better than being at my house. Besides. I’ll see you at the game right?”

“Of course” Eddie smiles happily as Richie looked around for anybody before sneaking in a kiss. “Richie!” Eddie blushes deeply as Richie retracts himself.

“What? I was careful” Richie kept that dumb smile on his face after doing a simple thing. Eddie couldn’t stop blushing the entire time they were heading inside. But before they could meet up with the others, the bell rang and Richie had to go to morning practice. “I’ll see you later Eddie”

‘Eddie...’ Eddie thought before smiling and waving him off.

“I can’t believe you’re emotional over not being called Eds. You’ve told him countless times to not call you that. Same with Eddie spaghetti” Beverly frowns as Eddie looking out the window watching

their practice. “Eddie?”

“I’m afraid he’s gonna end up calling me Edward”

“I highly doubt he will if he doesn’t like being called Richard”

“I’m just worried Bev” Eddie frowns turning back to the experiment.

As the two were in class, Richie watched them from the field before going back to the rotations they were doing. He walked up to the plate holding his bat as he got ready but felt a sore feeling while getting in position. Richie watches the pitcher before hitting the ball and sprinting to the bases. As he was running Ryan kept his eyes on him noticing something which instantly made him tackle Richie down.

“MEYERS WHAT THE FUCK ARE YOU DOING” Coach yells as Richie looks up at Ryan’s worried expression before suddenly pushing him off. “FOR FUCK SAKE. TAKE A LAP AND TOZIER GET BACK IN PITCHER POSITION. FUCKING MEYERS RUINED YOUR PLAY. RESUME PEOPLE”

Richie stood to his feet crossing his arms uncomfortably before quickly going to his field position.

After the first half of the school day it was lunch and instead of Eddie looking for Richie. Bill went to go find him as he asked Bev where all their smoking spots are to check those first. But instead of being

under the bleachers, Richie sat at the top seats of the bleachers looking out onto the field with his backpack open in between his legs rummaging through something. Bill walks to the front of the bleachers before heading up and finding Richie suddenly stop.

“Thought the losers were eating inside today”

“We are. But you’re one of us and you aren’t there. You’re out here” Bill took a seat watching Richie cross his arms resting in his knees. “Hungry? I have an apple from the cafeteria” he sets his bag down reaching into it. In the corner of his eye he notices Richie covering a specific part of his arm.

“Did Eddie ask about me before you even came out here...”

“I didn’t go to the group. I saw them but didn’t see you so I came out here”

“Oh...”

“Is everything a-alright R-R-Rich?”

“You stutter during stressful times. You know that right?”

“M-Mhm”

“You already know that I like Eddie because of Stan. But I’m so mad. Because..I don’t know if you or Stan had a good experience but Eddie has a perfect experience when coming out to his mom. My dad fucking left for space. To think about it all. My mom fucking hates me for it. I’m fucking frustrated. It’s like I shouldn’t have even thought about taking a step out of the closet. And don’t get me wrong. I’m happy for those who got the better experience. But why did I have to deal with asshole parents not being accepting...”

“Richie, y-you didnt..do what I-I think y-y-you did”

“...I-...I just need a friend right now B-Bill....”

As the minutes went by Bill was seen running over to the group’s table as Stanley moved a bit over for him to sit. But he wasn’t going to.

“Eddie d-do you h-h-have your f-f-first aid kit?”

“Yeah? I always do...” Eddie frowns before jumping the gun. “What happened to Richie?”

“N-Nothing. Can I have it f...for a moment please” Bill tried to control his stuttering as he mainly does it during stressful like situations.

Stanley of course being the pro Bill whisperer can read his expressions but when he was about to get up Bill gave him a look. Stan immediately stood down.

“Richie is fine probably just smoking somewhere”

“Then who’s the first aid kit for??”

“One of h-his baseball friends” Bill lies but Eddie bought it.

“You’re tightening the bandages too tight. You want my arms to fall off...” Richie thought but he didn’t say a word when Bill was bandaging up the cleaned up wounds.

“You...s-s-shouldn’t have done this...” Bill frowns as he felt a bit overwhelmed when he finished. He grabbed Richie’s face angrily. “DONT FUCKING DO THIS AGAIN OR ILL KICK YOUR ASS”

“You shouldn’t...shouldn’t yell at me”

“I-I-I know....b-but...I..worry for my best friend. E-Even if we haven’t hung out just the two of us in a long time” Bill frowns as Richie suddenly hugged Bill when he finished doing what he was doing.

Bill held Richie tightly squeezing him protectively as he heard Richie starting to cry again.

Not every loser has to keep themselves together to help the others.

Some need to break in order to heal...

**Notes for the Chapter:**

This is just the beginning of stuff relating with Suicide and self harm. I'm giving my warning before and after this chapter.

## 13. Ch. 12

Eddie ran into his final class finding Richie sleeping on his desk. He sighs with some relief as even if he did believe Bill during lunch. He will always and forever worry for any one of the losers. Especially Richie. Eddie walks over to his desk but before sitting he took Richie's glasses off his face. He rests them on his desk letting him sleep even if he was going to get yelled at by the teacher sooner than later. But the teacher just gave them the class to work on their presentation, she didn't care if he slept. Just as long as he did his work.

"...Mm...." Richie shifts a bit on his desk after being asleep for who knows how long in the class. He sat up stretching his back as he opens his eyes finding Eddie sitting toward him while working on the report. "Hey Eds.."

"Hey, you um. Kept knocking them off your desk so I kept them on mine until you woke up" Eddie says calmly handing Richie his glasses watching him put them on.

"Thanks cutie"

"Richie.." Eddie blushes a tad as Richie smiles a bit before getting up and moving his chair directly next to Eddie. "You want to come over today to work on this?"

"Mm....I'll try to, but weren't we going to meet up with the losers to study math?"



“Well you are the smartest one apparently with our math class. So you’ll really be the tutor. We were going to do that at Bev’s”

“Then we can work on the book after y’all understand fucking stats” Richie laughs a bit before going into his backpack and setting down his notes on the book including the first aid kit. “Umm. Thanks for lending it by the way”

“Anything for you Rich” Eddie blushes taking the kit feeling how it’s not very light. Of course Eddie is going to overthink about how heavy is first aid kit is. But he just decided to put it away for now.

After classes Richie got into the trunk of Bill’s truck with Bev and Ben. Bill was about to go into the drivers when Eddie grabbed his arm hesitantly.

“Yeah Eddie?”

“Can I make an assumption...?”

“That’s up..t-to you”

“Did he hurt...himself?” Eddie frowns as Bill gave the group a wait a minute symbol before taking Eddie away from everyone else.

“W-Why you ask?”

“You’re Stuttering Bill right now, and the materials taken out are usually used to handle deep wounds...that’s why I ask”

“Eddie..y-you heard nothing from m-m-me”

“....so it is true...” Eddie frowns as Bill knew he shouldn’t share information that isn’t his. But he knew his feelings towards Richie and had to confirm it.

“Y-Y-Yes...” Bill frowns as Eddie didn’t know how to take this information in. But he felt the tears rolling down his cheeks. Bill immediately wipes them away. “I d-don’t want Richie thinking I told you”

“I-I know I’m sorry” Eddie hugged his backpack covering his face.

“LETS GO BEFORE ITS DARK” Bev states from the trunk as Bill immediately went to the drivers seat as she kept her eyes on Eddie who tried containing himself. “Let’s go Eddieeee”

“I’m coming I’m..coming” Eddie climbs into the trunk closing the door but before he could slide over he felt Richie bring him over to the three by the window. “You’re aggressive”

“Mm. But you like that don’t you?” Richie teases as Eddie couldn’t get the thought out of his head about what Bill confirmed.

As the losers were making their way to Bev's, Mike had them stop to grab something from his pop's shop. So as they waited Bev got out to talk to Stanley about something with Ben following. Leaving the two in the trunk as Richie looks at Eddie carefully seeing him fiddle with the zipper on his backpack.

"You have my jersey right?"

"Yeah, it's hanging up in my room. Why?"

"You're gonna wear it during the game?"

"I said I would didn't I?" Eddie smiles as Richie took the opportunity kissing Eddie for the moment feeling Eddie bring his hand up and resting on his cheek.

Once the two parted everyone was getting back into the truck as Richie shifts a bit more into Eddie holding his hand but hiding it away from the others. Eddie enjoyed this, happily knowing Richie is okay in this moment. Bev still lived in the shitty apartment with her father but her father has been more "flexible" when she has friends over. So as they were getting ready with the study session, Eddie watched Stanley take Richie to talk about several things.

"Eddie. Sit down and let's get started"

“Shouldn’t we wait for Richie and Stanley?”

“Just because Richie is the tutor with a photographic memory. Doesn’t mean he’s gotta be here at the moment. And Stanley is smart enough to catch up so sit down”

“Okay okay” Eddie sat down next to Bev when Bill asked him to the most recent time.

“Bill tells me everything”

“Well okay? And?”

“What happened today?” Stan frowns as Richie retracts his body about to leave this conversation when Stanley grabbed his arm making him gasp really loud catching everyone’s attention.

“Everything alright in the hall?” Bev asks about to get up and check when-

“YES. Fucking Stanley pinched me is all...” Richie lies as Stanley retracts his hand quickly before getting pushed into the bathroom away from everyone else. “Don’t fucking touch me Stan”

“I’m sorry. I didn’t expect...such a reaction” Stanley frowns as Richie didn’t know how to say it. He didn’t even want to.

So he was going to....he suggested something that he hated himself...

“Ask Bill. I give my blessing for him to tell you...then maybe I’ll talk to you about it. But fuck Stan. I know we’re really close but I fucking can’t” Richie snaps before going into the tub to give himself a minute. But as for Stan.

He decided to jump the gun

“What did you use...” Stanley closed the door before sitting on the lid of the toilet. “...to hurt yourself with....”

“Stan-“

“No. Shut up. I’m your best friend. But I’m also a person. I have every right to tell an adult that you are suicidal or about to be. You deserve the help you need. But I know you wouldn’t do that because the losers and especially Eddie care about you”

“Eddie...”

“I know you and him are something. I won a bet. Which is very inappropriate to do but high schoolers do it all the time. But I know you wouldn’t end yourself when you have the love of your life”

“...How’d you come out Stan”

“Hm. I’m Jewish. Your Jewish. Once we become a man we are free to we’ll I don’t know. Be honest? So I told my parents that I like guys and they were okay with it. Got awkward until they fully met Bill so” Stanley frowns as he knows where he’s getting at. “That doesn’t mean you should end yourself thinking you’re going to be free. You’ll cause suffering in the losers. Who gives a fuck about your bio family. We are your actual family”

“I just wished they weren’t assholes. I know the Losers are my actual family but I wanted some faith in my bio one...”

“I know...and I’m sorry” Stanley frowns as Richie took the flannel off showing the bandages. “You need to re-dress them”

“And how the fuck am I supposed to do that when I’m not home and the only one with all the stuff is Eddie”

“You give your trust to Eddie” Stanley says calmly as the two were soon startled by a knock on the door.

“...Can I come in please?” Eddie asks as Richie freaks a bit by pulling the curtain closed.

“Rich. Just let him”

“....I don’t want to be thought of differently”

“He won’t you know..” Stanley says calmly before getting up and opening the door. “Yeah he’s hiding behind that Eddie” he passes by him as Eddie leans against the door frame looking at the curtain.

“Umm...not to be very random but we kinda need you for the study session. And...well I worry about everything else...” Eddie frowns before entering and closing the door. “You can trust me Richie....I know they are..your best friends but I consider you mine...”

“You are one of mine...I just didn’t expect Bill to come out and check on me. I expected Stanley. Even if I annoy the fuck out of him. He always checks up on my stupid ass...”

“Bill didn’t let any of us go with him when he asked for my first aid kit. He was panicking and it was obvious from his stuttering...” Eddie frowns walking over to move the curtain showing Richie curled up in the tub hiding his upper arms but Eddie already knew.

Eddie climbs into the tub making Richie get even more hesitant but all he felt was Eddie wrapping his arms around his waist. He rests his face against his back letting them relax and hopefully Richie will calm himself down. But Eddie knew he wasn’t going to leave until he does.

---

Eddie...we did it...we killed Pennywise man...

Eddie....?

Eddie!

—

“Please don’t ever leave me...” Richie suddenly started crying as Eddie frowns squeezing him more. “Please Eds....”

“I won’t, I promise...” Eddie reassures as Richie turns around to face him only to bring him even closer digging his face into his neck.

“Please....”

“I promise Rich...”

I promise.



## 14. Ch. 13

As the losers split off to walk themselves or drive themselves home...

Richie held Eddie's hand as the two were walking to their neighborhood. But as they got closer the more tense Richie got thinking about going back home. Instead of asking, Eddie immediately just pulled him away from his house going toward his. Eddie let go of his hand to unlock the door as he scans around finding his mom in her chair like always.

"Richie's parents are out of town. Can he stay here in the mean time?"

"Of course hun. Just make sure you get the inflatable mattress" Ms. K smiles before going back to her show as Eddie fully walks in with Richie following shortly behind. "Evening Richard"

"Hey Ms. K" Richie waves before quickly following Eddie.

After getting settled Eddie started re-dressing Richie's cuts as he couldn't hold in his feelings. The tears started rolling down his cheeks making Richie panic slightly before wiping them away.

"Eds.."

"I promise I won't leave you. Do the fucking same trashmouth....you

better promise the fucking same” Eddie started balling as Richie rests his head against his.

“I promise...I promise I promise.....I really promise Eddie...” Richie kept reassuring as Eddie tries to calm down to finish but all he wanted to do was hold onto Richie for dear life.

After a while Richie laid beside Eddie in his bed staring at the ceiling. Eddie was wearing his pajamas as Richie only had his tshirt and boxers on. The two stayed in the silence for a bit. Eddie soon sat up bringing himself to tower Richie in the bed feeling Richie rest one of his hands on his cheeks before smirking. Richie immediately closed the space between them kissing Eddie before slowly pushing him onto the bed and towering the smaller male. The make out continued for some time as it gradually got heavier and more intimate.

“You know I can go slow right...?”

“Please....”

“We don’t have to if-“

“I want to...” Eddie blushes holding onto Richie as he started.

As the moment lasted a while....

Richie lays next to Eddie under the blankets with Eddie resting on

top of him. Blushing and panting. The room felt warmer then it actually is. The two relaxed before Eddie sat up to face the mirror finding all kinds of marks left from Richie making his face as red as a tomato. Richie tolled over on his stomach looking up at the blushing mess.

“What the fuck is my mom going to think when she sees this...”

“Lucky guy”

“RICHIE” Eddie growls smacking Richie’s back watching him flinch, lifting himself up making him internally scream at the scratch marks resting on Richie’s back. ‘Oh fuck oh fuck’ he thought as he covers himself with his blanket.

“You need to cut your nails..”

“Richie....shut up”

“Okay...” Richie was about to get out of the bed to put his boxers back on but he was suddenly grabbed and pulled back onto the bed. “Hm. Round two?” He jokes thinking to himself that Eddie was uncomfortable that what they did happened. But Eddie enjoyed it.

“No...but that doesn’t mean I want you to get redressed”

“Oh?” Richie smiles as Eddie leans over kissing his forehead. “Wear

the sweater vest combo. Long sleeve sweater over the button down. I left my mark on places that can be covered up...even if it was tempting to place some where the world knows what Eddie Kaspbrak has been doing”

“...you sound like you’ve done this before...”

“Eddie...”

“..have you? Should I be worried about-“

“STDs? Okay that’s the Eddie I know and love. But no. I haven’t done that before...there’s just a lot you see on TV” Richie sat up crossing his legs watching Eddie cover them both in his blanket before resting against him.

“Well..I don’t know if I’m honored to be your first as you are mine. Or a bit confused why you watched porn on tv”

“You’d be surprised what movies have on tvs now a days...”

“Ain’t that kinda true..” Eddie says calmly before laying back into the bed with Richie laying beside him covering them more with the blanket. “I’m gonna have to re-bandage your arms yknow...since our activity was very physical and who knows how much sweat we produced”

Richie snickers a bit as it turned into a full on laugh. The laughing dies down as Richie covers his face in his hands sighing.

“You okay Richie?”

“Mhm...just stupid”

“Why?”

“For hurting myself...god I could’ve died...imagine that...but before I conf-fessed my feelings....what a terrible thought right” Richie tried to contain himself as Eddie suddenly felt tears.

“I would’ve killed you a second time if you never knew how I feel...” Eddie snuffles wiping away a few of his tears as Richie towers him wiping away the tears as they kept coming. “Better not die Richie or ill fucking kill you a second time”

“I promise...but you know what I’m going to ask Eds...”

“I promise you fucking idiot...” Eddie started balling as Richie brought him up hugging him with one arm feeling Eddie wrap his arms around him.

The next few days were less stressful and calmer than most high school days. It was finally game day and Richie didn’t go to any of his classes as he was practicing for that night. But when it was last

period, practice was over and Richie walked into class finding everyone working on their presentations as he looked for Eddie in his seat but he wasn't there.

"The one thing I was looking forward to...after a long ass practice.." Richie said to himself before going to his desk and taking a seat. He reached into his backpack thinking he didn't have the copy of Fahrenheit 451 but at least his notes but when he pulled it out he took it out. Finding all the tabs and notes Eddie made.

Richie flipped through the pages smiling enjoying the nerd that Eddie is as he stops at the last page finding an envelope with his name on it. He sets the book down opening it and reading the small note.

See you at the game dumbass <3

Richie smiles laughing a bit as he sets the note down before continuing his part. Keeping the dumb smile on his face.

An hour before the game, the other six losers were getting the barn ready and showing some school pride by painting on their faces their school colors. Bev was having the time of her life painting Richie's numbers on Eddie's cheek while he wore his jersey.

"I can't believe you're painting my entire face red"

"Mike I can't believe red and white are the school colors" Ben laughs as he continues to paint Mike's face. "Unsettling to be honest"

“Yeah but honestly better than an ugly yellow color” Stanley laughs as Bill rolls his eyes.

“You’re just making fun of the other team”

“What? Their mascot is a bee! They are black and yellow! That’s stupid”

“Makes us clowns with our colors” Bill states as the silence filled the room with the mentioning of clowns. Before the laughter filled the room.

“I still feel bad for missing last period...Richie is probably in there working on our project by himself”

“He had practice all day Eddie. I think he skipped the class. Besides. He’s probably practicing right now” Bev smiles as Eddie shrugs.

As the losers finish and make their way to the game. Eddie scanned around finding some of the players on the field. But before he could fully search for Richie, Bev had dragged him to the very top bleacher to root their friend on.

“Do you see the fucker yet?”

“Stan!”

“What? He calls us names”

“Not as often anymore”

“He calls Eddie names a lot”

“But that’s because he always does” Eddie says calmly before standing up quickly waving to Richie.

Richie has gotten into position when the game was getting set up. He looks over to his friends seeing them all decked out in school pride. Richie blushes a bit smiling happily especially when he saw Eddie in his jersey. He takes the ball in hand looking at his team before nodding to the others indicating they were ready.

Then the game begun

Before the fourth inning begun, the teams were given a break meaning Richie got the chance to go to his losers while the crowd also dispersed to get food and or converse in conversation.

“Well look at Trashmouth and his baseball uniform, you haven’t gotten up onto plate yet” Mike states as Richie shrugs smirking.



“We are just that good to where I don’t need...” Richie looks around for something as he talked before shaking his head back into the conversation. “Um. I don’t need to be up to bat..”

“Well our school is winning anyway cuz we got the best pitcher and out field people” Ben smiles as Richie took a seat for a moment feeling Eddie nudge him.

Richie turns to the nerd watching him smile as Eddie got the comedian to smile just from looking at him.

“You’re gonna do great Rich” Stanley pats his back before going back to his seat when they heard the whistle.

Richie quickly got up jumping down to the ground before looking back at his losers. He looks around one last time before quickly heading back to the field.

“He’s looking for his parents” Stanley frowns as he looked at Eddie’s now angered face. “Ed-“

“Fuck them”

Bev laughs at that response secretly enjoying when Eddie cusses even when he tries not to. Stanley tried to hold it in as Eddie stood on the top bleacher blushing nervously.

“FUCK’EM TRASHMOUTH” Eddie yells causing his fellow losers to lose their shit and break out into laughter as Richie smiles big. “LETS GO RICHIE!” He yells as Bev laughs before standing up beside him.

“LETS GO RICH!”

“YEAH RICHIE!”

“FUCK’EM RICHIE”

“YEAH LETS GO TRASHMOUTH!”

The other losers joined in as Richie started laughing from where he was as the game starts back up.

As the game went on, of course the six losers didn’t understand how the game worked. But the players did and it was the final inning and it was tied. Last batter up is Richie.

“You better win this game Tozier”

“Y’all have no faith in me”

“If we win this. We go to state. That’s all that matters. Of course we are anxious about it”

“Hm” Richie took in a deep breath before grabbing his bat and heading to home base.

“Woah. Our trashmouth is the one batting up”

“This is the final one for our team. So a lot of shit is on his shoulders”

“He’s gonna choke”

“What faith Bev has on our loser”

“Shut up Stan. He probably will or won’t”

“Who the fuck knows”

“Shut up guys I swear to fu-“ Eddie shuts up seeing a familiar set of parents as Stanley catches the stare before looking himself frowning.

“He better not see them. Or he really will choke” Stanley states as Richie gripped onto the bat while getting in his stance.

Richie focused on the pitcher before noticing in the corner of his eye his old man. He stares for a while as Stanley nudged Eddie indicating

that he noticed.

“What are we- Eddie sit down” Stanley watches Eddie run down the bleachers heading over to where the players are making quite a few people angry. “Oh my god he’s gone rouge”

“Could be worse”

“What could be worse than going into the fi-“ Stanley face palms as Bill starts laughing while Eddie got onto the field.

“Oh my god Eddie grew a pair” Bev starts laughing as she covers her eyes hoping nothing bad happens but of course she peaks.

“EDS GET OFF THE FIELD” Richie snaps dropping the bat and taking Eddie off the field himself.

“Richie-“

“What?”

“Don’t look at them”

“They were late to my game. Shows you how much they fucking-“

Richie was cut off by Eddie kissing him suddenly.

“THATS MY BOY” Bev and Stanley yell in unison before realizing and started laughing.

Bill face plans as Ben laughs with him falling into the space between bleachers. Mike tried helping him before stopping to laugh at Bev and Stan when they were all proud of their shy nerd.

Richie kept Eddie close as his coach suddenly grabbed the back of his jersey.

“LET GO OF YOUR LOVER AND FUCKING GET BACK ONTO THE BASE” The coach snaps tossing Richie back onto the plate as Richie looks over at his annoyed parents before smirking.

Richie grabbed his bat getting in stance and place putting in all his focus. He felt his body stiffen.

---

“Eddie..EDDIE EDDIE please..”

“Sir please stand back while we take your husband into surgery!”

“He’s....”

“He’s not my husband”

“Yeah keep telling yourself that Trashmouth” Bev took Richie’s hand comforting him.

“He’ll pull through”

---

Richie takes in a deep breath before hitting the ball as it came. He immediately dropped the bat and started sprinting. The ball hit the field as many were racing for it and tossing it to the base people but Richie met the base before the ball did. As Richie ran toward the home base, but before they could tag him with the ball. He slid on his side touching base and heading his school scream with joy on winning the match.

“LETS GO!” The coach screams as Richie’s fellow teammates run over to him hyping him up.

Bev ran down over to Eddie and punching his arm making him scream a bit.

“You grew a pair!”

“Fuck you!”

“IM NOT WRONG”

“Shut up Bev!” Eddie laughs as Bev continued to tease while the other losers join them.

“Swear to fuck you made his night Eddie” Stanley laughs a bit as Eddie blushes heavily from all the comments.

“Where’s Richie? We have a party to start” Ben states as Mike points out where Richie was walking.

“He’s going to his parents?” Bill was confused as Stanley and Eddie both grew tense thinking of what might happen.

“Great game out there. Can’t believe a pitcher can actually get a home run”

“Nice to see my old man and hag here.”

“Don’t talk to me like that” His mother frowns as Richie retracts himself when any of them try to lay a finger on him. “Ms. Kaspbrak

called us saying you spent the night at their residency for a few nights.”

“And from the looks of her son, he’s the reason you’re over there”

“Really pops? There’s many reasons why I don’t stay in that shithole you call a home”

“You better fucking watch that tone. Or you’ll live in the car you’re almost done making. Be grateful you even fucking got that shit”

“Is that all you wanted to talk about? Besides being snarky when it comes to saying great game. Or whatever the fuck you want to say. But still. Is that all you. Fucking. Wanted.”

“Better grab your shit from the so called shitty household if you want to keep living here” His father states as Richie stood confused watching him part from his mother.

“The fuck he means”

“The fuck he means is if you want to stay in this town until graduation. You better move your crap out. Because your father got a job out of Derry. And I’m leaving with him” She leaves her son alone in his thoughts.

For once Richie didn’t even care about the fact that his parents



weren't supportive. He cared about the fact that they didn't even think about him when it came to moving. Richie felt awful...

"Yo Richie! We got something waiting for you back at Mike's...." Stanley stops talking as Richie looks at him extremely upset. "Barn. What happened with your old man"

"Do you think Bill can do me a favor..with his truck"

"Yeah, and uh.."

"Can I get a place to stay? I...don't want to abuse the Kaspbrak household for well whatever remains of this year and next..."

"Richie did you-"

"Stop Stan..please"

"Okay. Well the others can go in Mike's. I'll get Bill so we can help you. Do you-"

"Can you bring Eddie..."

"Of course man" Stanley headed back to the group who was waiting and letting them know what's going on.

Richie waited feeling his heart pounding as he wished things weren't like this...

At all...

## 15. Ch. 14

Fucking old man...

After all the stuff was dropped off at Stan's. The four were driving to the barn as Richie sat in the trunk with Eddie who wouldn't stop giving him a worried look.

"That was shitty timing"

"Sure was, but who gives a fuck now"

"You do" Eddie frowns as Richie sighs resting his head on top of Eddie's. "Staying at Stans?"

"That's obvious. Cuz his parents know me a lot more than your mom. Plus...when I want to be introduced to your mom as your boyfriend...I don't want to be living there when you do" Richie blushes a bit feeling Eddie move his head to kiss his neck. "You still love me even if I am homeless"

"I'll always love you Richie, no matter what state you're in" Eddie looks up smiling happily as Richie took the moment kissing him.

"Do you think they'll last?" Bill asks Stanley as he smacks him in the arm. "WHAT"

“Don’t jinx anything. They are happy. Let them have it. But yes I think they’ll last. Even if they will end up driving each other mad every now and then. But what relationship doesn’t have that”

“True, but we both know the two very well. Don’t want either of them to hurt each other”

“Then we’ll make sure that won’t happen. But also focus on us too you know. I’m still mad that you think I’m going to go as far as California for college”

“Not my fault I’ve been accepted” Bill frowns as he parks the car watching the two get out of the trunk and head inside. “I just don’t want to be away from you. That’s all I ask”

“But you won’t give up California for me”

“Stan. Who knows what’s going to happen” Bill frowns knowing that what he’s asking was too much but he knew Stanley would give it too much thought.

After a while Richie went outside sitting beside Bev and offering a cigarette.

“I’m trying to cut back”

“...”

“...”

The two sat in silence before breaking out into laughter. Bev took one and light it herself as Richie had one already.

“If you marry Eddie he’s gonna make you stop smoking”

“It’ll be worth it”

“Oh?”

“I’ll do anything to live longer with the person I love”

“That’s cheesy and very Ben like. When did Richie become a man?”  
Bev teases smiling happily as Richie shrugs a bit.

“When I-“

“Nope” Bev pushed him off the hay box knowing he’d say something gross.

Richie laughs from where he lays as he watches the love of his life tower over him.

“Care for a dance trashmouth?”

“If you don’t mind bad dancing”

“Oh shut up” Eddie laughs helping Richie up before walking back into the barn.

Bev happily watches them go inside before putting out her cigarette. She got off the haystack making her way inside scanning the area suddenly smiling when she watched Ben walk immediately to her holding his hand out.

“Dance?”

“Thought you’d never ask Ben” Beverly smiles giving off a warm tone as Ben will always remember that smile.

As the night was settling in with this dance, the losers for once were enjoying themselves. Forgetting all the shit that has happened. Physical or mental. Anything. Family. Idiots. Bullies. Health. Etcetera. It was total bliss.

“Richie..”

“Yeah?”

“Do you mind being outted?”

“I mean. It cost me my parents-“

“Not that outted. I mean you and me” Eddie looks up at his now blushing jock as he snickers a bit to himself while bringing Richie down to kiss him lovingly before parting. “Because I don’t mind”

“You know I’ve wanted to be out. For a while”

“Mm..true true. The losers kind of already knew”

“That was obvious that they knew. But..I’m glad they did” Richie held Eddie close as they enjoy themselves.

“Yeah?”

“Made it easier, and made me feel better knowing my..real family never judged me ever”

“Well we do judge you on your mom jokes”

“That’s all you Eddie spaghetti” Richie smiles making Eddie laugh a little. He leans in kissing him once more for a kittle while longer.

Not giving a damn who sees.

After a while the party was over and the losers were heading home. Which brought back all those unwanted feelings into Richie. Richie laid in the trunk of Bill’s truck not holding onto anything as he let the bumps fly him in the air a bit. Eddie only watched with worry as he held onto the rim of the trunk. Stanley looked back when he heard a loud thud and Richie groaning.

“Guess he’s trying to have the truck knock out all the thoughts in his head”

“Better than killing yourself”

“Yeah okay. But you can still get brain damage”

“You sound like Eddie”

“Well I worry alright? Like how you are an idiot sometimes walking the rail road tracks thinking a train is never gonna come and take you out”



“Stanley you know you go with me just to pull me off every time you hear something”

“I know but fucking still”

“You worry a lot don’t you? About...everything” Bill frowns watching the worry that was plastered on Stan’s face only turn into a frown. “Stan..”

“I want to be a factor in your life when you make decisions. But honestly...If you want to follow your dreams. Then follow them...” Stanley frowns before feeling Bill wrap an arm around him bringing him close to his person.

“I just don’t want to be in Derry for the rest of my life”

“None of us do...” Stanley relaxes as Bill stops at Eddie’s house watching from the rear view mirror Richie getting out and helping Eddie off.

“They’ll last. Even if shit gets in the way”

“So will we Stuttering Bill”

Bill laughs a bit at that stupid nickname before kissing Stanley lovingly.

Richie walked up to Eddie's door with him about to say goodnight when...

"I love you" Eddie blushes heavily not knowing what to do after as Richie suddenly brought him into his arms resting his head on his shoulder. "Richie-"

"I love you too Eds"

Eddie squeezes Richie enjoying their embrace as he wanted to kiss him so bad but didn't want his mother interrupting. Soon they parted as Richie didn't want to leave just yet but didn't want to keep the other two waiting.

"Wanna hang tomorrow?"

"All the losers are hanging tomorrow did you already forget?"

"A bit...but maybe after just us?"

"Of course Rich"

"Okay.." Richie smiles before looking into the window for a moment then coming back and kissing Eddie's cheek. "Goodnight Eddie spaghetti"

“Night Trashmouth” Eddie smiles watching Richie go back to the truck.

As the hours pass by and it was now the next day, Stanley kicks Richie awake but hitting the inflatable mattress. Richie rolled himself over and off it before slowly opening his eyes looking at Stanley with an angered expression.

“What”

“Wake up and actually eat breakfast you fucking twig”

“Ehhhhh....” Richie brought himself up stretching.

“You talk in your sleep by the way”

“That’s not good”

“I mean. You weren’t saying scary or dumb shit. You were mainly mumbling for the first part.”

“But then how did I wake you?”

“I’m a light sleeper. And you screamed one second then went back to mumbling”

“That explains it. Guess nightmares are very vocal in my case” Richie states as he goes into his duffel bag taking out a hoodie to put on immediately before heading downstairs with Stan.

“Morning boys” Mrs. Uris smiles setting down their breakfast. “I called your mother Richie. To tell her where you are. Then she rudely hung up on me. I swear that woman is quite an odd character” she laughs before taking her coffee and going to her husband in the den leaving the boys alone.

“Well that’s great start to the morning”

“At least she’s not crazy enough to drag you back to wherever they are”

“True. But I wish I kept my tools. Now I gotta ask Mike for his set”

“Still working on that car? Thought you were done”

“I got kicked out before I could finish. Remember? Plus! I’m missing a few pieces” Richie says as he picks at his food.

“Well the losers can go to the car junk yard to find some pieces”

“That would be great, but do you think they’d be cool getting dirty with oil?”

“Eddie is the one you should ask that. But honestly he’d do anything for you if you ask. Same vise versa”

“Can I ask you somethin?”

“When do you never ask me something?”

“Touché, but I’m gonna need a huge favor instead of an ask. But not now”

“Okay then...when?”

“Oh you’ll know”

## 16. Ch. 15

“I SWEAR TO FUCK WHY AM I ON DOG DUTY” Eddie complains as the junkyard had a pit bull that roam around every now and then.

“Because. You’re a fast runner Eddie” Bev jokes as she sat in a tire watching Eddie nervously look around for the dog. “Calm down and sit with me”

“Shouldn’t we be helping Richie as well?”

“Nah. The other four losers can help him. Cars aren’t my thing and I doubt you want to get all the shit that come off cars on you”

“Well if it makes this experience go by faster, I don’t really care about the shit” Eddie sat on the edge of the fire next to Bev’s before sinking into it.

“We can go to the lake after this and wash off” Bev says calmly staring at the sky sighing. “Ever think what it’s like out of Derry?”

“Yeah...why?”

“I’m afraid” Bev laughs a bit as Eddie looks at her with some concern. “I made a family here. With a group of losers. The light of my life lives here. But after hearing a few of the losers’ plans? None of them are in Derry except Mike.”

“Are you going to follow Ben?”

“Are you going to follow Richie?”

A question neither of them asked themselves. But they both knew their other half's dreams.

A comedian

An architect

“Make a promise for me Eddie?”

“Anything for you Beverley”

—

“Hun..h-he...”

“NO BEV HES JUST HURT”

“Richie...”

---

“Promise you’ll live longer than me..?”

“What an odd promise” Eddie laughs before nodding. “I promise though. You know my hypochondriac ass”

“I do, I really do...” Bev smiles as she covers her face for a moment letting the few tears stream down her cheeks before wiping them away. “Anyway. Wanna check up on our idiots?”

“Yeah, lets-My ass is stuck in the tire”

The loud laughter coming from Bev and the screaming from Eddie draw the losers’ attention. Especially Ben and Richie. As the five ran over they mainly relaxed a bit watching Bev laughing at Eddie being stuck. Richie laughs a bit as he slides down the pile suddenly falling off the pile laughing even more before going to Eddie and helping him get unstuck.

“How did he even get stuck?”

“All he had to do was sit down Bill” Bev laughs even more falling on her knees enjoying this laugh.



“Can’t believe you actually got stuck” Stanley face palms as Eddie blushes embarrassed.

“Guys it’s fine. It’s just his fine ass that got stuck” Richie comments to only get punched in the arm by Eddie. “What? I don’t tell a lie”

“Beep beep Richie” Eddie crosses his arms blushing even more.

“Guys”

“But how do you even get stuck in a tire that’s bigger than you”

“The hole isn’t even small enough to get stuck in”

“Guys-“

“Shut up Mike this is an actual question”

“Pit bull” Mike points out as the losers stop watching a very menacing looking pit bull bolt toward them.

As the losers ran up the pile get above the dog, Richie just stood there about to get grabbed by Eddie but the dog suddenly stops.

“I swear to fuck Richie”

“You made it a big deal that the dog is mean-“ Bev shuts herself up watching the dog push Richie over. “And we call Eddie the twig???”

“Get the dog off him guys before he alerts anybody” Ben states running down the pile with Bill but before they could grab Richie and drag him out from under, the dog suddenly started growling.

“Richie just. Toss the dog off!”

“That’s animal abuse Bev” Mike states as Richie stares at it not knowing what exactly to do.

“Okay! Clearly y’all never had a dog!”

“You never had a dog either Eddie!”

“Shut up Stan I know! But I watch movies!”

“So do we Eddie!”

“BILL SHUT UP” Eddie states as he grabs a pipe. “Beep beep

motherfucker”

“Oh god don’t hit the dog” Bev covers her eyes as they watch Eddie toss the pipe causing the dog to chase it.

“You can uncover your eyes. Hurry up and grab Richie” Mike states grabbing Bev and Ben running over the pile heading out of the junkyard.

Bill ran up the pile a bit about to help Stan before watching the two towering the still in shock Richie. “Guys, come on before it comes back”

---

“I THINK I KILLED IT. I THINK I KILLED-“ Eddie gets stabbed right in the chest with the blood splattering all over Richie.

“Richie.....?”

---

“Richie...?” Eddie frowns helping him up as Stanley brushes him off.

“Couldn’t cut it huh?” Stanley looks at Richie concerned.

---

Stanley

Could

Not

Cut

It

“Stanley’s dead...”

---

Richie suddenly hugged the two of them which was concerning to the two and Bill who was watching.

“You’re okay bud” Stanley pats his back as the three soon ran up when the dog started barking coming back.

After a while they were all by the lake like Bev suggested. As the few was enjoying themselves, Eddie swam by Stanley as he saw his gaze on Richie who went under the water for the moment.

“Is he alright?”

“I don’t really know nowadays”

“...would it be weird to ask what’s floating in his head?”

“If you let it define him yeah. But I think you have a better chance getting what’s wrong from him compared to me”

“You’re his best friend stan”

“Yeah. But sometimes you gotta-“

“I do! Trust me. He just doesn’t tell me most of the time”

“Yeah. I feel that way with Bill sometimes” Stanley shrugs as the two watch Mike and Bill go immediately under water. “What’s happening now?”

“Richie hasn’t come up yet” Bev frowns watching as Ben joined them quickly. “Swear to fuck. Is he suicidal..” she questions making the

two important ones in Richie's life suddenly go under.

---

"We don't know if he'll wake up"

"It's only a matter of time"

"But his directive is clear"

"After a certain amount of days"

"He'd like you be unplugged"

All the remaining losers rest their hands on Richie's back for comfort as all he wanted to do was scream. Wishing none of this would've happened.

"I saw Eddie today, he looked really bad...like I'm afraid he won't make it Stan.." Richie frowns as Stanley laid in his hospital bed in a curled up position with heavy bandages on his wrists and antidepressants coursing through his system.

"You're really depressed...and you're talking to a depressed person"

“I’m scared Stanley. And you’re my best friend”

“...you know what I liked to think about before it took a hospital to calm my system?”

“What?”

“I would listen to the noises brought by the night. In Derry we had a lot of birds...where I lived with my ex wife had a lot of birds and sometimes crickets....the sound was calming. Now the only calming thing is my heart monitor and the dim lighting. And the drugs being pushed into my system. It’s all....calming...”

“So I should find what makes me calm”

“Just. Shut up and listen to the sounds in the room...”

Silence....

Then the sudden code alarm.

“CODE BLUE. MR. KASPBRAK’S ROOM”

---

Richie suddenly coughs up a lot of water groaning a bit watching Eddie who did the CPR suddenly start crying as the others sigh with a lot of relief.

“Fuck dude” Stanley frowns pinching the space in between his eyes.

“You need to take a breather..before we get up and out of here” Bill reassured resting his hand on Richie’s shoulder.

Richie sat up slowly before suddenly embracing Eddie holding him tightly. Bev frowns looking at Richie’s worry filled eyes start tearing up as he held onto his love.

As the hours went by Richie laid in Eddie’s bed and has been staring at the ceiling for a while, while Eddie went to get something.

“Eddie my love....”

“I love you so....”

“How I’ve waited for you you’ll never know...”

“Please Eddie, don't make me wait to long....”



“Eddie please write me one line...”

“Tell me your love is still only mine....”

“Please Eddie don't make me wait too long.....”

Richie continues to sing as Eddie waited for him to finish enjoying the rare occasion of him singing. Once Richie sat up he stopped singing resulting in a blush as Eddie walks in closing the door behind him.

“Did...”

“I heard all of it, you have a great singing voice for someone who drowned” Eddie rolls his eyes before handing Richie a glass of water climbing into the bed. “You scared me today”

“I’m sorry...”

“As long as you’re okay you don’t need to apologize. But trust me. I would’ve fucking killed you if you died”

“You’d kill me a second time?”

“Yes and I know you’d haunt me so” Eddie lays back sighing with some relief. “Just...What’s floating around in your head?”

“It’s really hard to explain, trust me. I want to tell you. But it’s difficult. Even for me” Richie sets the glass down before laying next to Eddie.

“We’ll make it though right?”

“Huh?”

“You’re not having thoughts of ending things with me right?”

“Fuck no! That’s a jump”

“Says the one who doesn’t tell me his thoughts. I understand that they are difficult. You don’t have to go into detail about’em. But you can talk to me about them” Eddie frowns before smiling a bit when Richie towered him in his bed.

“Remember what we promised each other?”

“Yeah?”

“Don’t ever leave me Eds”

“Don’t ever leave me Richie..”

“I promise”

“As do I” Eddie places both of his hands on Richie’s face feeling Richie put his weight all on top of him before kissing him lovingly.

///

Meanwhile Stanley sat in his room staring out his window worried about what life would be like out of Derry. He looks down in his hands finding his acceptance letter for a college that puts a halt to any plan he had with Bill.

“Guess I couldn’t cut it”

### **Notes for the Chapter:**

\*is a depressed college student\*

Writing this stuff is the only thing keeping me sane

## 17. Ch. 16

-1994-

### Senior Year

An Impala drives into the school parking lot, parking in between a freshly washed red truck and a Ford Mustang. As the person parks he heard a loud scream.

“FUCKING RICHIE ACTUALLY FINISHED THE CAR” A skyscraper of a man Mike laughs walking by and next to the impala as Richie motherfucking Tozier gets out still shorter than Mike but taller than before. “Woah. New glasses too?”

“Hey this is what a person with a job looks like. The diner pays pretty well” Richie smirks. “And I miss my leopard print glasses as much as everyone does. But fully black suits me well too”

“So doing baseball your final year of high school?”

“Yeah but don’t think too ahead Mikey boy. That’s the next semester. But what about you? Doing football this year?”

“Yo we don’t talk about that. Alright?” Mike laughs a bit. “That was a one time thing”

“Highly doubt. The coach does love getting up the teammates asses about the final year. Ohhhh and how’s the lovely lady? What’s her name again. Keisha? Liza?”

“You are so racist only thinking of common black girl names. AND. Gina. Is still my main squeeze” Mike smiles happily as Richie nudges him as a happy gesture.

“Congrats man. Now where’s the rest of us losers? Cuz Big Red is here and I know the mustang is yours”

“Well the usual bleachers spot, that’s where I last saw Bev and Ben. But. You can catch your main squeeze in the lab” Mike smiles finding Gina and going to her.

Richie smiles a bit to himself before making his way to the science lab. As he makes his way over he finds Stanley in tears. He stops right in front of him not saying a word but their instant reactions were to hug. Which none of them hesitated in doing.

“Bruh I just saw you this morning. What the fuck could happen in seconds???”

Stanley sighs pulling away and wiping away his tears as he went into his backpack and handing Richie his acceptance letter. Richie looked at it carefully before looking back at Stanley.

“Isn’t this a good thing?”

“Y-Yes. But it means I’ll be away from Bill...when I don’t wanna be”

“You know you spend almost every second of the day with him right? So I don’t really see a problem in being away for four years just to come back to each other”

“Oh so you think you’re not going to be feeling this way with Eddie?”

“Stan. You want me to be honest right?”

“Yes!”

“I’m afraid. But you’re the one hurting and I’m trying to make you feel better. Instead of being the usual selfish asshole I am making it about myself.”

“...You’ve matured for sure...”

Richie shrugs a bit before resting his hands on Stanley’s shoulders.

“The future is the scary fucking bitch we have to face everyday. Worse than that fucking clown. You gotta sacrifice to follow your dreams. But the things you hold on, will come back one day. It takes

time. Now go be with Bill right now and talk about it when you want to” Richie pats one of his shoulders before pulling away and going into the lab.

Richie walks over to Eddie’s station sitting beside him. The two didn’t make eye contact for the moment. Eddie soon sat up instead of slouching over the counter turning toward Richie.

“Rich”

“Eds”

Eddie grabbed his collar bringing him in and kissing Richie lovingly feeling Richie get off the stool standing as he held onto Eddie’s shirt. Eddie parts for a second.

“Don’t call me Eds”

“Granted” Richie smirks bringing Eddie closer to him kissing him again making it last longer.

After their moment lasted a little while longer Richie was buttoning up his shirt feeling Eddie rest his head on his shoulder as he was sitting on the table.

“Can’t believe we didn’t get caught and class is about to start”

“What can I say, I can control more than just my noises” Richie smirks turning toward Eddie feeling him wrap his arms around his neck.

“We rarely hung out just you and I during the summer...I did miss you”

“Mmm, I always miss you Eds” Richie smiles kissing him once more before getting startled by the bell. “What a cock block”

Eddie laughs a bit getting off the table bringing Richie down kissing him once more about to leave when Richie grabbed his forearm.

“Hm?” Eddie was confused before watching Richie bring his sleeves down. “You know if you’re gonna wear my marks proudly I can too right?”

“Yeah but you know your mom would get jealous after school if she sees I left my mark on you”

“Oh my god” Eddie rolls his eyes heading out laughing a bit to himself.

As the first few classes went by not assigning much, Richie went out to the bleachers to take a moment to himself. He sat out in broad daylight lighting a cigarette and taking a very harsh breather.



“Damn. You still smoke even after we did tell each other we’d stop?” Beverly smiles walking up the bleachers sitting next to Richie. “Also shouldn’t you be in fourth? It’s not lunch yet”

“Shouldn’t I be asking you the same? Plus it’s a-“

“Study hall” The two said in unison without intentions of doing so. Bev rolls her eyes before reaching in her satchel taking out her pack. “Old habits are hard to kill”

“Tell me about it” Richie laughs handing her his lighter.

“So I’m mainly out here to tell you that Bower’s cousin now goes here. And he picks him up”

“Okay, and?”

“Gonna pick a fight with him?”

“No”

“Even if he starts it?”

“No promises. He fucking gave me hell. It’d be fun to give it back”

“There’s Trashmouth” Bev laughs coughing slightly. “Now. Beware”

“Why?”

“Cuz if a fight does happen. Eddie is gonna want to protect you. And he might get caught in the cross fire”

“Bower is dead if that happens”

“Damn. Okay okay. Now let’s go to class before we get caught” Bev puts out her cigarette before grabbing her bag and walking down with Richie following shortly behind.

As the last class rolled in, Richie stood outside his art class which was a requirement since he didn’t take an art class yet. He watched a few people walk in not finding any of his friends in the mix yet before walking in and finding his three of his losers. Guess the blind joke can be a little too real sometimes. Stan waved over Richie to their table saving the empty seat next to Eddie for him as Bill sat beside him of course.

“Thought I’d have no classes with you Stan the man”

“Dude we have math together”

“I know but I just thought I’d point that out now”

Stan face palms sighing as Eddie leans against Richie for a moment. Bill got up to get their stuff the teacher started talking about.

“It’s only the first day and we’re all tired as fuck” Richie sighs as Eddie snickers a bit. “Wanna come over tonight?”

“Richie I’m having Bill over”

“Rightttttt” Richie thought for a moment. “I wanna show you somewhere Eds if your mom would be cool with me taking you out”

“Yeah she’ll be cool about it, just don’t take me anywhere I’ll die at”

“I’ll protect you Eddie spaghetti”

“Haven’t heard that in a long time” Stanley whispers to Bill when he came back as he shrugs.

As the art class was mainly

Do this every week and the sketchbook is due at the end of the week

It was pretty easy

As Richie was mainly using the sheets of paper for right now he got distracted as he watched the late student walking into the classroom. In this case it was Sam, Bower's brother. He stares for a while feeling all that unwanted pains again as he started drawing what he was thinking. Which made his friends rather concerned. Eddie nudges Richie catching him out of his thoughts as he immediately slides into his chair stopping the drawing. Bill took the drawing to get a better look as it was a hangman not the game but the act of execution. The man is Richie or it looked to be him.

"And you want to be a comedian" Bill says to himself as he sets it down watching Stanley take it.

"Are you okay Richie?" Eddie frowns looking at Richie who's gaze was back on Sam. Eddie immediately looked over trying to connect the dots. "If it's Bower you're afraid of after school we can go out through the back" he whispers frowning as Richie shook his head to the last part. But the first part was half true. "Just let me know" He rests his hand on Richie's shoulder watching him immediately take his hand into his and taking a deep breath.

"Calming method" Stanley tells himself as he continues to draw a bird.

The bell rang a few moments after as Richie waited for everyone to exit the room before getting up himself and taking Eddie's hand once again.

“There’s nothing really assigned except for drawing, come over to my place instead?” Eddie smiles happily watching Richie nod. “We can watch the Shinning”

“You can hold me if you get scared baby” Richie teases as he kisses Eddie’s cheek happily.

“There’s my two favorite gays” Bev smiles cutting in between the two wrapping her arms around both of them.

“How was science?”

“You mean chemistry? I know I have it but I’ve never felt more stupid in that class” Bev laughs a bit.

“I can tutor you when tests are about to come around” Eddie suggests. “You did fail the first time. When I was there. So”

“I’ll take you up on that offer” Bev smirks before finding Ben and separating from the two running over to her partner hugging him tightly.

“Cute” Richie smiles as does Eddie who could always agree with that.

“Richard?”

Richie's smile suddenly faded as he turns around to face Sam. "Sam, so. You go here now?"

Eddie stood confused as he locked arms with Richie indicating the obvious to Sam. But that's not why he's there.

"Yeah, Uh...How've you been?"

"Perfect." Richie frowns before smiling as he soon moves his arm to wrap around Eddie keeping him close. "I'm perfect, what about you?"

"Great as well..Um. My brother-"

"What does Bower fucking want."

"Damn Richard. Take it down a notch. I don't have my car. So my brother picks me up. I'm just warning you"

"Shouldn't I be cautious? Of the Bower Brothers. Not just him"

"Okay calm your fucking ass" Sam started to get angry as Richie let go of Eddie about to start something physical but felt Eddie pull him back.

“Richie lets just go...”

Richie scoffs before turning around and taking Eddie’s hand into his. As the two headed out Sam smirked a bit laughing going to his locker.

“Welcome to hell Tozier” He tells himself with a devilish smirk.

As Richie and Eddie got out to the front finding their fellow losers waiting for them but the guys were blocking Richie’s view. Or well mainly him.

“So are we gonna race one day with the impala and the mustang?” Richie asks Mike feeling Eddie let go of his hand to stand beside Mike to block more of the view. “Okay. What’s with the wall?”

“What wall? We are just chatting and standing here” Stanley says calmly as Bev face palms a bit. “So, Uh plans about the house. Bill is spending the night”

“Does that mean I’m sleeping in the couch?” Richie asks as Eddie shook his head.

“You can spend the night at my place. If you don’t mind the new cat in the house”

“You have a cat?!” Bev asks as Eddie nods annoyed that his mother

got so lonely that she got a tabby named Sigma. "Time to steal"

"Bev no"

"Bev yes" Bev immediately ran toward the direction of Eddie's house with Eddie running behind same with Ben.

"Well then-..." Richie draws his attention to his impala finding Bower and his crowd. "Is that why you made the wall?"

"We were actually thinking how you're gonna get to your car" Stanley says calmly as Bill was about to suggest something when he watches Richie head over.

"You see. I thought the story was ending but no. Shit always gotta happen" Mike fourth walls as Stanley looks at him confused before hurrying over with Bill.

Richie walks over pushing Bower off the hood of his impala to only get grabbed by the collar.

"What the fuck you think you're doing trashmouth"

"Your mom" Richie smirks before suddenly head butting Bower getting released from his grasp.



Mike and Bill immediately blocked Bower from going after Richie when he immediately got in his car to go chase after Eddie and Bev.

“The fucking fag has a black body guard?” Bower jokes to only get socked by Mike. The three watch him fall on the ground as Bill pushed stan to get in his car and Mike hurried to his car.

What a great....great start to senior year

## 18. Ch. 17

Richie drove down Eddie's street looking each side finding Bev and Eddie on the curb. He stops his car harshly realizing Eddie was coughing and choking. Richie immediately got out after parking and forcing the trunk open to grab his first aid kit that of course Eddie made. He ran over setting it down and as Bev tried helping the best she can. Richie immediately pulled out the spare inhaler that's always up to date because that's how Eddie is. He hands it to Eddie watching him fidget before finally getting to use it.

"How the fuck do you know what to do Rich?"

"When my impala was finished. Eddie packed a first aid kit in my car. Knowing my dumbass will probably get into fights or get hurt so I'll always have something. But he gets two inhalers every new pick up. So he gives me one to hold for him in case he forgets his. And that was the case this time" Richie says calmly as Eddie rests his head on Richie's shoulder taking in a deep breath after using his inhaler. "Do you want some water? I think I have a bottle in my backpack" he asks as Eddie nods giving off a few coughs here and there. "Okay" Richie got up going back to his car and moving it next to the two sitting instead of being in the middle of the street.

"You have a great boyfriend" Bev smiles at Eddie who was fixated on the bruise forming underneath one of Richie's eyes from him head butting Bower, his glasses pressed against his face forcefully. "Eds?"

"Sorry, what?" Eddie looks at Bev as Bev laughs a bit to his distracted ass.

Richie sat back down handing Eddie his water as he felt Eddie remove his glasses showing the bruise. It was the size of a nickel. No big deal. Unless you were Eddie.

“What even happened...” Eddie frowns holding his chest as he spoke.

“Bower. But it’s fine” Richie frowns as he takes his glasses back putting them on.

“You know Bower isn’t even allowed on school grounds” Bev says calmly as Richie shrugs looking around realizing.

“Where did Ben go?”

“He went to get Eddie’s mom” Bev says frowning realizing what Ben just opened. “Shit”

“Well I should get you home before your mom starts a wild goose chase”

“I’m....” Eddie coughs a bit more. “I’m almost eighteen. And she’s clingy still”

“Rightttt your birthday is really soon” Bev looks at Richie watching him have a dumb look of forgetfulness on his face.

"It's almost the end of August. So yeah. It is soon." Eddie rolls his eyes before trying to get up as Richie immediately did holding one of his hands. "Can you drive me home?"

"Of course, Um Bev do you-"

"Nah I'll just wait for Ben to run back" Bev smiles as Richie picked up Eddie's backpack before going to his car with him.

Once Eddie got into the car and Richie started it, he immediately took his hand for a moment after Richie put it in drive.

"Are you feeling any better Eds?"

"Don't call me that..."

"I'll take that as a yes?" Richie looks at him with concern as he felt Eddie squeeze his hand. "Come on. I'll get you home" he kisses the top of his hand before letting go to drive.

"Thank you so much for bringing him home Richard"

"Of course Ms. K" Richie smiles as he sets down Eddie's backpack by the door about to leave.

“Can Richie spend the night?” Eddie asks as his mother agreed to it under the circumstance that Richie would sleep on the inflatable mattress. “Come on” he gestured inside as Richie follows quickly.

After a while Richie laid down on the inflatable mattress next to Eddie’s bed as he was staring at the ceiling for a while which made him slightly tired for the most part. Eddie came in after changing into shorts and one of Richie’s hoodies he took from him. He closes the door behind him before straddling Richie on the mattress.

“Well that’s a lovely view” Richie smirks as Eddie moves himself to lay on top of him comfortably. “Penny for your thoughts?”

“I should be asking you that” Eddie says calmly as he listened to Richie’s heart beat when he didn’t reply. “Rich.”

“I’m just over thinking like usual. We are seniors. It may be the beginning of the year. But fuck am I scared”

“Don’t think too ahead Richie, let’s just enjoy now and worry when the time comes”

Richie smiles a bit before flipping the two towering Eddie watching him smile with the cute blush across his cheeks. He kisses him lovingly and happily feeling Eddie run his hands through his hair.

“Boys I made you two some tea” Ms. Kaspbrak interrupts by knocking as Eddie parts from Richie groaning before getting up and getting the

tray while Richie got comfortable.

As the now annoyed Eddie came back in closing the door before setting the tray down on his desk. He looks over to a now shirtless Richie as his face lit up for his reaction.

“You still blush heavily babe”

“And that’s an issue?”

“Nope. Just makes you cuter” Richie smiles as Eddie slides in next to him on the mattress. “Bless Ms. K for making us tea. You make me very thirsty”

“That...that sounded so stupid” Eddie blushes heavily as he starts laughing.

“I know it did” Richie laughs with him before wrapping an arm around him bringing him close. “But I got you to laugh. So it’s a win”

Eddie rolls his eyes curling up in his embrace smiling happily. He looks up at Richie before bringing himself up to his level and kissing him with all sorts of passion. Resulting in Richie towering the smaller male planting one of his legs in between Eddie’s making him blush. Eddie brought his hands back around Richie’s neck with one of his hands running through his hair. Richie ran one of his hands up his leg bringing it under his shorts making the pink turn red on his face. As the two got more serious Eddie kept covering his mouth so his

mother wouldn't barge in while Richie was having the time of his life and didn't care if Ms. K walked in on the two.

But thankful on Eddie's part, she never did.

As the two relaxed fully exposed on the inflatable mattress. Richie looked at Eddie's blushing face as he rests his hand on his cheek watching him open his eyes before smiling.

"You....are fine with us doing that right?"

"If I didn't you wouldn't have a penis"

"Ouch. Are you implying you'd cut it off??"

"Richie. Does it matter?"

"I'm kind of very concerned now if I were to piss you off"

"Then you already know what I'll do" Eddie laughs as Richie was extremely concerned for his Johnson if he ever hurt Eddie. He wouldn't ever but still a weird thing to happen if he ever.

"Should we get dressed?"

“Mmm...I don’t want to. But if you want dinner later you’re gonna have to” Eddie laughs a bit sitting up and catching a glimpse of himself in his mirror seeing the millions of hickeys and bite marks. “I swear. I thought you were human. Not a mosquito”

“Hey...do we have to go over the fact that every time we do it you don’t cut your nails” Richie sat up watching Eddie turn into a fire truck as he notices his claw marks.

“I swear to god” Eddie blushes covering his face as Richie adjust his glasses before resting his head on Eddie’s shoulder. “Get dressed...so my mom doesn’t see your back at dinner”

“Hey. Ms. K loves me shirtless-“ Richie laughs as Eddie punches his arm. “Okay okay. I’ll get dressed. Damn” he reaches for his briefs and pants before putting them on feeling Eddie’s stare on him. “Take a picture it’ll last longer”

Eddie blushes even more smacking Richie’s back watching him retract a bit realizing his marks stung. “Shit”

“Hnnnnn” Richie rolls off the mattress laying on the floor shirtless for a moment. “Swear to fuck Eds”

“Don’t call me...Eds” Eddie leaned over looking at Richie smacking his stomach to get his attention.



“Eddddieeeee....”

“Richard”

“NO”

Eddie laughs a bit before screaming when Riche brought him off the mattress and on top of his playfully.

“My mom will come in!”

“Yeah from you yelling!”

“L E T M E G E T D R E S S E D”

“Nnnn.....No”

“Richie....” Eddie groans smiling when Richie kisses his face several times. “Stoopppp”

“No...your mom needs to walk in to see how much I love you. Naked and all”

“RICHIE” Eddie groans straddling him helping himself sit up as he looked at Richie’s dumb face enjoy the view. “Stop” he grabbed his pillow smothering him.

## 19. Ch. 18

As the night crawls in Eddie crawled into his own bed looking down at Richie on his mattress. Richie had his thoughts all over the place when the night came in. He turns to find Eddie looking at him with curiosity.

“Are you gonna cuddle me Eddie spaghetti?”

“Not after hearing that nickname” Eddie laughs tossing him a pillow before turning off the lights.

Richie took his glasses off sitting up for the moment to put it on Eddie’s nightstand. But as he was about to go down Eddie grabbed his collar bringing him in for a Goodnight kiss before letting him plop down on the mattress.

“Night Eddie”

“Night baby”

His heart started pounding as Richie was smiling even more.

As the hours went by Richie woke up in the middle of the night hearing semi loud crying and tossing and turning. He sat up rubbing his eyes grabbing his glasses to put them on seeing Eddie curled up in his bed crying even more. Richie got up before sitting on the edge of

his bed resting his hand on his cheek frowning.

---

Eddie sat in an extremely dark room with a spotlight on him. His heartbeat was the only sound heard in the room. He was trying to speak but couldn't.

“You’re leaving....me?”

Eddie stood quickly to his feet as he watched another spotlight appear with Richie faces away from him. But he noticed the black like liquid gushing out from his wrists. When Richie turned toward him he started crying gripping his head as the black liquid got everywhere.

“-!” Eddie tried screaming but couldn't.

“I love you, but why does everything hurt. Eddie why...WhY dOeS iT hUrT” Richie chokes collapsing as Eddie watched the light turn off leaving him alone.

Eddie suddenly let go an agony sound that echoed that dark room. He gripped his chest dropping to his knees with the tears rolling down his cheeks. Another light appears with a tv playing every moment he watched Richie break himself down to keep the smile on his face.

“I...I care about your feelings Richie...” Eddie cries.

“I know” Richie sat beside Eddie resting his head on his shoulder. “...I love you..even if my emotions one day will kill me”

---

He soon pulled the blanket up off of Eddie for the moment which ended up waking him. Eddie only started crying more when he felt Richie join him in the bed holding him close to his chest making him feel secured.

“R....Richie..”

“Shh...Just try and go back to sleep”

“I love you....”

Richie squeezed Eddie holding him tightly as Eddie gripped the back of his shirt.

“I love you more Eddie” Richie rests his head on top of Eddie’s feeling him dig his face in his chest.

The next morning came around as Eddie opens his eyes finding Richie still holding him and another blanket put on top of them. He kisses under his chin as a wake up call. Richie groans a bit rubbing his face.

“I slept with my glasses...”

“You have a mark from them” Eddie sat up before taking Richie’s glasses off watching him rest his head back on the pillow. “Hey you need to get up and get ready for school”

“Hmm....I gotta get my spare shirt from my car”

“I’ll go get it since I am dressed compared to you” Eddie laughs as does Richie before sitting up feeling Eddie plant a kiss on his cheek.

“My keys are in my bag” Richie says calmly as he rubs his face feeling Eddie get off the bed putting his slippers on before going in Richie’s backpack taking the keys out.

As Eddie headed to his car he opened the driver’s side putting the seat up finding his duffel bag of spare clothes whenever he goes out. He finds the perfect thing for his enjoyment quickly heading back.

“Can’t believe you found’em in there...fucking Stanley’s mom bought these for me” Richie laughs checking himself out in Eddie’s mirror as he enjoys the view from his bed.

Eddie picked out the floral short sleeved button down and black suspenders. He of course wore his usual sweater over a white button down and blue jeans but he enjoyed Richie's outfit a lot that day. He soon got a stupid idea.

"Can I be....very gay and very out there right now?"

"If it means you being extra adorable then yes" Richie leans into Eddie kissing him lovingly before parting watching his partner go and grab something. "I love him....so much" Richie smiles happily to himself sitting on the bed laying back and thinking about the positive side to their future. It made him blush and give off happy noises which soundly girly for a moment but when Eddie walked back in he looked at his smiling other half. Only to make him smile.

"Black floral, black suspenders, navy skinny jeans, and your usual converse. But how about we make it complete with black nail polish" Eddie bites his lip thinking it was a stupid idea but he watched Richie grab his wrist to check the time on his watch.

"We have time, so why not?" Richie smiles watching Eddie smile big.

After a while, ten minutes before school was about to start. Richie parked his impala looking at the stairs finding Stanley alone.

"I'll see you in art, you talk to your best friend" Eddie smiles kissing Richie's cheek before getting out of the car and heading inside.

Richie gestured Stanley to his impala as Stanley immediately got into his car before slamming his head into the dash board. Richie frowns resting his hand on his back hearing him give off a loud sigh.

“What did Bill do now?”

“Everything”

“So, this isn’t serious?”

“No. Not this time. It was just a stupid thing”

“I am plenty of stupid to handle what stupid thing Bill did” Richie leans back into his seat looking at Stanley watching his face continue to be sour.

“He started talking about his exes, and I told him I don’t feel comfortable talking about it”

“Wait. Why did he even bring it up?”

“I did something that reminded him of his ex, and I got mad when he said it out loud. But honestly I can’t even stop thinking about it” Stanley brought his legs up and into his chest hiding his face.



“You know stuttering Bill didn’t mean it completely”

“If he didn’t mean it. Why the fuck am I ranting to you instead of hugging my boyfriend”

“True...” Richie frowns before nudging him. “We can hang under the bleachers at lunch. Clear your head about Bill”

“Don’t you want to sit with Eddie?”

“Eddie loves me so much, that he understands if I want to be there for my best friend” Richie smiles patting Stanley’s back before getting out of his car with his bag heading inside with Stanley.

As the classes went by, Eddie walked outside during lunch scanning around the baseball field finding Richie waving at him from under the bleachers. He smiles making his way over dropping his backpack on the ground before sitting next to him finding Stanley laying on his side staring at nothing.

“Is Stan alright?”

“He’s thinking. Probably too hard but I think he’ll be fine. As long as he doesn’t Murder”

“You think he’s gonna Murder?”

“Stan can do anything so”

Eddie looks at Stanley before laying on the ground staring directly at his friend. The two were now staring at each other as Richie stared at the two and this uncomfortable experience before getting distracted finding Sam running to the back gate of the school meeting up with his brother as the two were laughing. Richie felt a lot of pain in his chest making him try to distract himself but he felt overwhelmed. Stanley rolled onto his back looking at Richie then Eddie.

“I’m surprised Bill hasn’t come out yet”

“Were you expecting him to come out here?”

“I mean you did because you love your boyfriend to come out here. Fight or not. I expected Bill to come out and say something” Stan frowns. “I get easily frustrated. And his ex was like that. But almost everyone is like that. Why the fuck did he have to say “you reminded me of my ex” right to my fucking face” he covers his face with his hands taking in deep breaths trying not to cry.

Eddie frowns before moving himself to rest his head on Stan’s stomach causing him to remove his hands and look.

“Sometimes people work differently where they close themselves off when they try to think of the right words to tell the person they love

what's on their mind. Bill is sometimes too honest. We love him for it. But it can be overboard. We'll kick his ass later. Just right now distract yourself. Think about something else"

"The only other thing I can think about is graduating. And the year barely fucking started"

"Then think about birds" Richie states as he rests his head in Eddie's lap feeling his hands run through his hair. "I don't like thinking about the future. Fills my head with too much what if scenarios. Think about now or think about something you really like. That isn't your boyfriend. Even if Eddie is a perfect image in my head. I can bet you, he thinks about many more things other than me"

"You're always in my head Rich, but I do think about the lake when I want to clear my head sometimes. Even if we only got in the lake the first time after yknow..." Eddie closes his eyes taking a deep breath before clearing his thoughts.

Stanley took a moment to think of birds to clear his head. As it did work. Until the bell rang for all of them to go to class. As Stanley got up and started heading out, Eddie kept Richie back for a bit.

"We are gonna be late Eds" Richie smirks as Eddie rolls his eyes to the nickname before taking the opportunity to kiss his idiot.

"We can be late. You know I'll always get my work done" Eddie smiles a bit climbing into Richie's lap as he leaned against the pillar of the bleachers enjoying this moment of them alone.

Richie held Eddie like it was the end of the world, as Eddie held him like he was going to die if he let go. The two were feeling all of a sudden. Richie with his vision like episodes and Eddie with his nightmare from last night. They only wanted each other for a moment.

And they got it.

## 20. Ch. 19

“Today we’ll be starting the first unit with colors. Basics” The art teacher goes on as Stanley sat across from Bill next to Richie staring at the table while the teacher talks about the lesson.

Richie looked at Eddie from across the table giving him a look of tension that’s caused from the two next to them. He soon straighten up a bit in his chair resting his pencil.

“Y’know learning the different shades in this basics lesson will help improve my dick drawings”

“What the fuck Richie” Bill instantly snaps as the teacher slams a ruler on their table to get their attentions back.

But that reaction instantly told the two and especially Stan, that he was angry.

As the day came to an end, Mike and Bev were talking by the losers lockers before suddenly flinching watching Bill storm over punching his locker open.

“Jesus Bill. Need a fucking smoke for that anger?” Bev frowns as Bill looks at her with anger filled that were soon balling. “Bill..”

“Just. Why the fuck do I say the wrong thing? Honestly! Mike end up

be the leader in the end. Who the fuck knows” Bill slams his locker closed leaving the two.

“The leader thing was random”

“Or foreshadowing Mike...Um. Tell Ben I’ll call him tonight. I’m gonna-“

“Yeah go” Mike watched Bev chase after Bill as he was about to open his locker when a crying Stan appeared beside him. “Weren’t you just-“

“I’m so stupid Mike. Please take me home...”

“Of course. But how about we go talk about it with Ben. You can use the two of us right now” Mike frowns resting his hand on Stanley’s shoulder before freezing when he rests his crying face against his chest. “Okay. We’ll take a minute” he pats his back watching Ben walk out of class witnessing the two.

After a while Bev watched Bill tossing his backpack in the trunk about to punch his truck when his brain actually worked telling him it’s only going to hurt. She soon grabbed Bill’s shirt to catch his attention, wiping away his angry tears, and letting him sit on the curb to the parking lot. Taking a moment.

“So what happened?”

“I said something stupid to Stan”

“And he got hurt?”

“He stopped talking to me”

“So you know he’s hurt but he hasn’t told you he is”

“Mhm...”

“For fuck sake. I thought this was interesting. Get the fuck up off your ass and stand in front of me” Bev snaps. “NOW DENBROUGH”

Bill immediately stood to his feet planting himself in front of Bev.

“What did you say to him?”

“You remind me of my ex”

Bev immediately slapped Bill. “Don’t ever fucking say that to the person you love”

“The fu-“

“It hurts their feelings Bill. And it’s just. Weird how we think about that kind of phrase in the extremist way! But fuck how am I supposed to know?! Ben is my first and only love. But from what the whores say at our school they fucking hate it and you hit a nerve.” Bev states crossing her arms as she watches Bill’s expression go to sudden realization. “Boys are so stupid” Bev sighs grabbing his arm. “Let’s go apologize”

Meanwhile...

“If we were fucking twenty one wed drink out sorrows away”

“Ben. Shut up”

“I’m serious Mike. Like Bev and I are perfect right now. But like there’s gonna be something that randomly happens. Don’t you think that with Gina?!”

“Gina is honest when she’s upset or feeling any kind of emotion. She talks to me when she needs and wants to.” Mike states as he watches Stan lay on the bleacher still in tears. “That sounded rather off out loud then in my head”

“I want to fucking bury myself in my bed right now” Stanley groans sitting up wiping away his tears. “Do you guys know if Richie is still around?”



“Could check the science lab”

“At you’re own risk”

The two knew what to expect as Stanley was clueless. But the two were assholes not to tell him what they do in the science lab. All they did was sit there, watching Stanley wall down the bleachers heading back inside.

“Should we follow?”

“Nah. I gotta find Gina and take her home. You also gotta find Bev. She was talking to Bill though. So..”

“Well. Guess that’s my queue to go find my girl before shit goes down” Ben got up helping Mike up before going quickly inside.

As Stanley makes his way to the science lab he stops finding Sam Bowers with his own gang. He froze a bit remembering too much from the times with his brother terrorizing him and his friends. As Sam inches closer the more frozen in place Stan got, that when he simply walked by..Stan felt the emotions exhale out of his body through his tears. He soon pushes the science lab door open before screaming and covering his eyes at the sight of Richie and Eddie having some fun.

“STAN”

“what the fuck what the fuck what the fuck what the fuck what the fuck what the fuck” Eddie kept repeating as he hid under the lab table redressing himself feeling Richie cover him with his button down.

“I swear to fuck Stan. I just wanted a bit of a fun before my shift” Richie tucks in his black undershirt putting back on his belt as Eddie pops up from the other side blushing extremely.

“I’m sorry. I’m sorry. I’m sorry.” Stan still had his eyes covered. “Can I just get a ride home before my shift....”

“Sure. But I think you’d want to tell Bill in the hall that I’m driving you” Richie stats as Stan removes his hands looking at Bill waiting by his locker, instantly heading out.

“And I thought we were the disaster gays..”

“Eddie spaghetti, we are disaster gays. Just not tornados”

“You know what disasters are....actually never mind” Eddie rolls his eyes as Richie shoved his suspenders in his backpack before taking out his name tag. “You really have to work today?”

“As much as Stan’s parents are willing to help me financially until I

graduate. I'd like to have something to fall back on" Richie frowns rubbing the back of his neck.

Eddie stares at him for a moment before walking over and grabbing Richie's shirt planting his lips on his neck.

"Hmm...I guess they can wait a little while longer..." Richie smirks picking up Eddie feeling him wrap his legs around his torso.

After a while Stanley walked into the diner Richie worked at with Bill to join Eddie who would come every now and then to watch Richie. The two sat with Eddie taking out the homework they had so far.

"Did y'all make up?"

Bill started blushing as Stanley nods covering his face with his book. Eddie rolls his eyes smiling as he watches the door open revealing the other losers joining them but after a few minutes he watched the Bowers come in heading to the opposite side. Eddie watched Richie stay back in the kitchen for a while until he was forced back out.

"Is Gina upset that you came to hang out with us?"

"No, she forgot she had plans with her mother. So I couldn't hang out with her. At least I got to drive her home" Mike replies to Bev before handing her a pen when she asked for once mid sentence. "Does anybody else to get uncomfortable feeling that Sam Bowers follow us"

“That’s very forward. But it does feel that way sometimes” Ben frowns. “He hangs out with his brother too often. Why doesn’t he just get up and leave this damn town”

“Because he’s a pussy with no money” Richie states as he sets down water for Eddie always knowing the time Eddie takes his medicine. “Would you guys like anything?”

“To know if you’re okay serving that table” Eddie asks as he grabs his medicine container from his bag.

“I’ll be fine babe” Richie smiles kissing Eddie’s temple before straightening back up and clicking his pen. “So?”

As the hours went by Richie stood beside his co-worker behind the counter as he was staring at Sam still in his booth. His friends had left him alone and the losers left to go home.

“Mind closing Rich?”

“No I don’t mind. See you tomorrow Trey” Richie watches Trey go to the back to clock out as he walks over to Sam. “We are closing. Time to leave”

“Tsk. What a shame. Well I’ll see you at school Richard” Sam smirks getting up from the booth heading out.

After locking up Richie puts his jacket on since I'm Maine it's extremely cold at night. He was heading towards his car finding two figures by his car making him retract into himself.

"Cmon Fairy, you know you wanna go home. Just get in. Go home"  
Sam laughs walking up behind Richie wrapping an arm around him.  
"Or you can stay to have some fun"

## 21. Ch. 20

The loud slam of the bedroom door woke up Stanley as he sat up watching a dark figure which was Richie slam into his bed, kicking his shoes off, covering himself in his blanket, and no sound came out of him when he got into the room.

“Long day?” Stanley frowns watching Richie nod still facing away from him. He brought the blanket over his head as he took off his glasses setting them on his nightstand. “Well hopefully tomorrow is better...am I right” He yawns before laying back down.

As the night went on Richie pulled the blanket off him looking over to see Stan still sleeping. He slowly got up ripping his shirt off before getting out of the bed walking into the bathroom closing the door then turning on the light. He stared at his body covered in beaten up bruising, strangle bruising on his neck, a small cut on his cheek, few deep cuts on his arms and back, and scratches almost everywhere on his body. He stared at his black eye thinking and knowing his friends will notice. Richie tried taking a deep breath but he ended up coughing and coughing up something not pretty.

The next morning came as Stanley woke up to no sign of Richie or his shoes for that matter. He got up heading downstairs seeing his impala in the driveway but no sign of his father’s car.

“Hey mom, are you still home?” Stanley asked around before finding his mother in the den on the land line.

“They are keeping him? For the night?” She frowns listening to her husband go on about Richie. “Okay, well. You should call his parents.

Just to inform them even if...you know. Okay. Bye hun” she ends the call watching Stanley stand in front of her.

“What’s going on?”

“I’m surprised you didn’t check on Richie when he first got home from his shift last night.”

“He seemed fine. For the most part”

“Did you actually see Richard? And his physical state?”

“No...why? What happened?”

“He didn’t tell your father or I until you’re father took him to the hospital. He was mugged at work. I’m surprised he came straight home.” Mrs. Uris stood up to head into the kitchen grabbing the keys to Richie’s impala resting them in Stanley’s hands. “Richie would allow you to borrow his car. Right? I have to go to the hospital and stay with him since your father has to work”

Stanley frowns taking the keys. “Can’t I go?”

“No. You have school and you’ll get Richie’s missing work” His mother frowns before getting her things to leave.

After a while Bill stood by Stanley's locker waiting for him to get to school but he also kept his eyes on the anxious Eddie looking around for Richie. He walks over resting his hand on his shoulder.

"He said he'd call me at the diner if he was closing. He never did. So I thought he left early and that's why. But who knows. Bill he could be anywhere. Bill-"

"Eddie. Stop. He's fine. I promise" Bill rubbed circles on his back to calm him as the two watch Stanley walk into the school holding Richie's keys in his hands. "Okay. I'm sorry for assuming"

"Bill. He's-"

"Don't jump that far Eddie. He's not dead."

Stanley approaches the two knowing they were expecting Richie to follow behind him but of course. Not the case.

"Explain!" Eddie snaps at Stanley as the worry clearly spoke out.

"He's in the hospital" Stanley frowns as Eddie felt his heart start pounding which lead to hyperventilating. "Eddie-"

Eddie slid against his locker continuing to hyperventilate as the tears started forming in his eyes. Bill immediately knelt down trying to calm him down as Stanley didn't know what exactly to do.



“Yo! I thought y’all fuckers were outside. Where’s Rich-“ Bev stops talking as she ran inside to find her losers trying to help Eddie. “Okay. Where’s Richie? I need his keys-“

Stanley handed Bev the keys to his impala not even bothering asking why as she ran to his impala to grab the spare inhaler.

“Eddie is an idiot for fucking forgetting his inhaler-“ Bev stops talking when she opened the trunk finding blood stains on the back bumper. “Oh my god Rich...” she frowns getting distracted before bringing herself back.

As Bev grabbed the inhaler out of the first aid kit, she ran inside finding the school nurse with Eddie. She headed over handing Eddie his inhaler as he tried taking some in but he forget to give Richie the newest dose. He started crying in all kinds of pain as Mike immediately started to call Mrs. Kaspbrak which the school was going to do anyway. The nurse soon took Eddie into the nurse’s office leaving the remaining losers to themselves.

“What caused this?” Bev frowns as Stanley started tearing up angrily. “Stan.”

“Richie is in the hospital. And I didn’t fucking know he came home beaten up.” Stanley frowns pinching his nose trying to stop his crying but he soon left the group to contain himself.

“Bill, you should see Richie’s trunk. Or at least the back bumper. Ben

can you go check on Stan?” Bev frowns watching her boy nod before heading the direction Stanley went.

All this commotion.

Meanwhile....

Mrs. Uris looks over to Richie’s stationary body looking at the chest tube that was put in to drain the blood from his lung. She frowns extremely worried for him as she thought of him as her own son from how long he’s known Stan and has stayed with them. Mrs. Uris also knew if she wasn’t religious she’d knock some sense into his parents’ head and make sure it stayed there.

“Hn...hm” Richie groans trying to move but he gasps to the pain. He looks around before finding Mrs. Uris. “S-...”

“Stan isn’t here. Nor are your other friends. Not yet at least”

“Mrs...Uris I-...”

“I’m just...relieved that we took you in on time. Stanley should’ve checked up on you once you got home. You’re safe. Okay?”

Richie started tearing up mainly from pain but he felt better knowing that Mrs. Uris was there for him.

“You’re going to be okay hun, you’re friends will come after school”  
She reassures taking his hand feeling him squeeze.

Eddie stayed in the nurse’s office the entire day as he didn’t calm down from all of his emotions. He got out of the office when classes were being let out as he turns to find Stanley waiting for him at his locker. Eddie ran over grabbing his arm as Stanley wrapped his arm around him walking with him to the impala.

“Do you know nothing?”

“All I know is that he got mugged and ended up in the hospital”

Eddie started to panic again as Stanley grabbed his shoulders.

“We are going to go see him. Calm down” Stanley frowns watching Eddie nod before crying again. “Okay. We can take a minute” he frowns hugging Eddie feeling him shake in his arms.

“We comin too. Don’t think you’d go without us fuckers” Bev stares at the two as she got into the back of the impala with Ben. Stanley let go of Eddie for him to get in the front.

“Stan, he’s going to be okay” Bill reassures resting his hand on Stan’s cheek watching him try his hardest to keep every emotion contained.  
“I’ll meet you there. Okay?”

“Mhm..” Stanley parts from Bill before getting into the impala and driving his losers to the hospital.

“Do you think Stan is beating himself up over this?” Mike asks Bill as he wasn’t the only one to notice.

“I’m just..s-s-saying right now. If Stanley gets hurt in any way, defending trashmouth, I’ll kill him” Bill frowns unlocking his car for the two to get in.

While Richie was getting tests done and Mrs. Uris was told to wait in the waiting room, she saw her son walk into the room with three of their friends.

“Guessing Bill and Mike will show up soon?”

“Mhm, how is he doing?”

“He’s getting tests done. Hopefully it’ll be over soon for you all to see him before visiting hours are over” She states looking at how anxious Eddie is getting just from being in the hospital. “Edward please sit down, this is all scary” she pays the bench next to her as Eddie sat down but still felt all kinds of feelings that were going to make him have another attack.

As the moments went by and they all waited impatiently in the

waiting room. The doctor came out looking at all the losers confused extremely before resting his hand on Mrs. Uris's shoulder indicating that he's back in his room.

"I'll be there after I get his scans back, and as for all of you" He turns toward the losers. "He's still in pain. Even with morphine. But he's also very doped up on the pain medication, please don't take advantage of that." He sighs as he heads to radiology and labs. "They'd be surprised how people take advantage of that" he says under his breath as they all got up following Stan's mom.

"Honestly. Thinking about it. Richie was asking for it" Bill frowns as Eddie stops in place when he heard that but the others didn't seem to be paying attention. "Are you okay Eds-"

"Shut up Bill" Eddie frowns as the tears have been falling down his cheeks every chance they got. "Why even-"

"Eddie. You know Richie-"

"HE DOESNT PICK THE FIGHTS BILL" Eddie snaps which caught the attention of their fellow losers. "YOU WERE OPEN FOR A LONG TIME. YOU. STAN. ME. WE'RE OPEN. PARENTS STILL LOVE US. BUT HAVE YOU EVER TAKEN THE CHANCE TO REALIZE THAT RICHIE FEARED BEING OUT AND STILL FUCKING DOES BECAUSE OF HOMOPHOBES LIKE THE BOWERS" he stopped talking knowing he was going to regret something. Even if he was already feeling that way. Eddie took a minute to take a deep breath before walking toward Richie's room with Bev wrapping her arm around him for comfort.

Bill frowns standing in that hall knowing he should've just kept his thoughts to himself. As the losers flood into the room and Stanley forced Bill to stay by the wall. Stanley's mother gave them the room as they were all looking at an extremely defeated Richie. Richie didn't say a thing as he heard Eddie scream in the hallway, he felt his emotions starting to get the best of him. He didn't have his glasses as he covers his face with his hands.

"I didn't expect all of you to come." Richie says calmly as he wipes away his tears.

"We care about you Richie"

"Of course we'd come dumbass"

"Trashmouth too cool for visitors"

"Can't believe you got yourself in here"

"Bill. Just shut up"

Richie started laughing before stopping feeling pain with the tube in his chest. Eddie wipes away all of his tears trying to contain himself. Stanley walked to his side checking out all of the injuries feeling overwhelmed himself.

"You're an idiot"

“Mm....Thanks Stan”

“Why didn’t you just fucking wake me up. I could’ve fucking helped you sooner than when you got help”

“According to what these hot docs like to say, my airway was close to being “in critical condition”. I forgot the fancy word he said to your mom. But if you came earlier in the morning I couldn’t speak. Needed the rest” Richie frowns looking at Bill suddenly smiling and trying not to laugh since it hurt everything. “So um...Did I deserve this? Probably..”

“NO, You fucking didn’t” Eddie cried as Richie held his hand out feeling Eddie immediately take it.

Richie frowns feeling how cold his skin was as he tried bringing himself up when Stanley panicked a bit thinking he shouldn’t be doing that. He pulled Eddie with the strength he had in the moment into the bed as he grabbed his crying face.

“Did you have an asthma attack today?” Richie frowns as he was thinking of every possibility on why when he knew his anxiety would turn into a panic attack then in Eddie’s case an asthmatic episode.

“I-“

“You’re not fine. When is anyone ever” Richie gave Bill a stare when he said that last bit.

“Richard Tozier. You have your chest tube still in. You can’t be sitting up thinking it’s not going to be painful when you lay back down” The doctor frowns as Eddie got out of the bed grabbing the chair going directly next to Richie’s bed.

Richie tried laying back down as the doctor moved Stan and Beverly to the wall when he put gloves on adjusting the tube making Richie gasp in pain. Bev started choking up on her tears turning toward the wall as Mike rests his hand on Eddie’s shoulder comforting him while he cries.

“All so emotional, and going by his age. You’re all also seniors. You should be enjoying it instead of getting yourself hurt. Or even worse” The doctor frowns covering up Richie with the blanket before doing his check. “So, Ortho will be in later to check on your ankle do to the x-ray. But for the post part you’ll need a splint. As for the other injuries. If your out put stays the same. We’ll removed the tube tonight. The stitches in your arms and face will be removed in a week or two. Depending. Other injuries like the bruising and road rash on your back, will go away if you don’t do anything more stupid. Like closing the diner knowing some asshole was gonna stay and do this” The doctor was infuriated with what happened and what Richie told him. But at least he was honest. Unlike a Richie in more cases.

As he leaves, Bill walked over to the edge of the bed lifting up the blanket by his feet seeing how swollen one was compared to the other. He frowns putting the blanket back as he goes back to hugging the wall sliding to the ground realizing a lot. Stanley grabbed the chair his mother sat in putting it beside the bed like what Eddie did before sitting.



“We all may be losers, but I sure am an idiot” Richie frowns looking over at Eddie taking his hand again. “Were you given water? Help?”

“Richie don’t care about-“

“Eddie if I was dead I’d still care about what the fuck happens to you” Richie snaps as his other hand gripped onto the bed from pain. “Can you just answer”

“My...my mom came to the school with my new dose. I put the other spare in your car...”

“Someone drove my impala?” Richie questions turning to Stanley as he took the keys out of his pocket. He smirks a bit still trying not to laugh. “Felt Good right?”

“Beep beep Richie” Stanley laughs as Bev sat on the edge of the bed crossing her legs.

Bev was giving Richie a look as he was confused on what she’s implying by just looking at him.

“Lungs?”

“No”

“...Liver?”

“You drink?”

“No, uhhh.....”

“Do you want us to do anything to Sam Bowers?”

“No”

“Richie we can do something” Mike frowns watching Richie shake his head. “He deserves this pain more than you do”

“Yeah but why would you want to become the monster that he is? I may have stupid moments where sometimes I do start the fights. But doesn’t mean I want to become what he is.” Richie frowns as he felt Eddie squeezed his hand. “Can someone get Eddie spaghetti some water? I swear to fuck you dehydrated yourself”

Eddie didn’t enjoy how cold Richie’s hands were in this setting. He started breathing heavily as Richie frowns squeezing his hand.

“Can we get a minute? Y’all can get food and come back” Richie states as Stanley nods getting up out of his seat heading out with Bev and Ben as Mike took Bill out.

Once it was just Richie and Eddie, Richie looked at his crying partner as he squeezed his hand tightly.

“You’re just a blur but I know you’re crying. You shouldn’t cry” Richie frowns resting his hand on his cheek as Eddie only continued.

“You could’ve died. You could’ve died. You COULDVE DIED” Eddie cries.

---

“Hun he’s dead”

“NO”

---

Richie suddenly burst into tears startling Eddie as he climbed into the bed. Both of them not caring what could happen as Richie held Eddie tightly not wanting to ever let go. Eddie only continued to cry as he wouldn’t want to be pulled away from him.

Ever.

## 22. Ch. 21

“Stan, Richie is being discharged today. Can you pick him up after school?”

“Guessing you have to go back to work”

“Yes, but I also thought you’d be fine picking him up”

“His impala shouldn’t be the best option for him to go home in”

“And Bill’s truck is? Mike’s mustang?”

“Okay. Fair point.” Stanley laughs as it’s been a week and a half without Richie around.

Which was surprisingly okay for the most part. But it made the losers miss their crackhead.

Stanley had been picking up Eddie as well during the week.

As he was driving to Eddie’s, he saw Eddie sitting on the curb wearing one of Richie’s shirts which made him laugh a bit. He pulls over honking for his attention as Eddie quickly got in.

“So. Why the shirt?”

“I fear hospitals. So I didn’t visit Richie that much...and I miss his embrace” Eddie blushes a bit as Stanley smiles warmly patting his back. “Also I’m really afraid of what he’ll do on my birthday next week. Since he still has his stitches and brace and-“

“Eddie. Knowing us. We’ll make sure Richie wouldn’t get too active” Stanley laughs driving to Bill’s. “If you don’t mind-“

“Picking up Bill because He’s an idiot who didn’t fix his car yet”

“Exactly. But Mike will drive him home since Richie is gonna want to lay down in the back seat. And I assume you want to come wit-“

“Yes! Yes I do” Eddie blushes as Stanley laughs a bit before honking at Bill’s place. “Do you want Bill to sit with you...in the front?”

“No. He needs to chill when it comes to his goddamn opinion” Stanley frowns as Bill finally got into the car. “Seat belt Bill”

“No shit Sherlock” Bill laughs as Stanley rolls his eyes before driving to school.

After a while a very impatient Eddie sat at lunch restless and anxious about after school. Stanley watched him with Bev while they waited for their other losers.

“So have you visited Richie recently?”

“Three days ago. He was crying the entire time I was there”

“HE WAS?!”

“Maybe we should’ve talked in language. Anyway go on” Bev laughs a bit at Eddie’s reaction.

“He got anxious but that’s because he thought he was dying.”

“What’s that-“

“He was taken on the fluid medication. It wasn’t withdrawal since he’s never done drugs other than weed and cigarettes. But his body wasn’t used to not feeling okay” Stanley picked at his lunch. “So. The funny thing. The nurse gave him a pillow they give the pregnant moms. To help him sleep in any position he wanted. And he started feeling better. But I couldn’t take him home that day.”

“HE WAS SUPPOSED TO BE DISCHARGED EARLIER?!” Eddie groans resting his head on the table.

“Why are your reactions funny...” Bev said under her breath as she laughs a little to herself. “Anyway, let’s not talk about Richard right

now. How's you and Bill"

"Ugh I'd rather not"

"I'll tell you tea about Ben and I if you talk about you and Bill"

"You spill first"

"Ben is leaving right after graduation. His parents not only got a job out of Derry. But he got accepted into his dream school. Majoring something relating to becoming a architect. And I can't go with him. I know he's the new kid in my heart and I'll never forget him. But that feeling of senior year coming to a close. Is terrifying"

Stanley stares at Bev as does Eddie. The two were worried for how she's really feeling.

"I'm fine though. Because I know one day our paths will cross and I'll be with my love again" Bev smiles before punching Stanley in the arm making him gasp. "You're turn. Why won't you be touchy touchy with Bill?"

"I'm still mad about the ex comment. But same as you. I'm worried about the college shit."

"There's more. I know there's more" Bev nudges Stanley to get it out of him.

“We haven’t fucked”

Too forward

“How the....You literally kick Richie out whenever Bill is over”

“Doesn’t mean oral doesn’t fucking happen. He just wants to go ALL THE WAY when I just. Am fine where I’m at” Stanley blushes as Bev started laughing which made him push her off the bench but she continued to laugh.

“....Am I the only one that’s lost it?” Eddie blurts as Bev suddenly lost it getting on the bench again pushing Stanley over so she’d be in front of Eds.

“Is it fun? Are you good? Is Richie bi-“

“OKAY. OKAY IM A PANICKED GAY AND ILL BE LEAVING NOW” Eddie blushes heavily getting up and heading to the science lab.

Bev sighs snorting a bit before bringing Stanley back on the bench trying her best to stop laughing. “Sorry. Just. Ben and I never done it either. But I can’t believe that’s the issue”

“Why do you think he’s so clingy of me despite the situation”



“Ohhhh that’s true....” Bev smirks before cooling down. “Can’t Wait for Eddie to realize he can’t fuck Richie until a few weeks. Because of recovery”

“Like that’ll stop Richie”

As Eddie sat in the science lab resting his head on the lab table wishing Richie was with him. But it was nice to think for the moment.

---

“BEEP BEEP MOTHERFUCKER”

“I AM NOT LEAVING EDDIE. YOU’LL HAVE TO SHOOT ME DEAD IF YOU WANT TO LEAVE EDDIE”

“EDDIE”

“Eds...”

“I love you”

---

Eddie didn't know what he just thought as he brought himself up covering his face with his hands crying.

The hours pass as Richie held onto the pillow in his hospital bed staring at the wall with tears rolling down his cheeks. He felt all kind of pain laying there.

"Yo. You're ride is here Rich" The doctor states as he looks at Richie's position. "You can take the pillow. I don't think L&D will notice it gone. Also, remember to rebandage your arms and have someone do your back after showering and before you get dressed in the morning."

"What about-"

"Your guardian will pick up your medication at the local pharmacy in Derry, and the crutch is to put less pressure on your ankle. If it doesn't heal correctly. You'll need a cast."

"Gotcha Doc" Richie sat up rubbing his eyes as he puts his glasses on.

"Need help or want your friends to help?"

"I think I'll be fine" Richie states as the door opens showing Stanley with Eddie following shortly behind. "Stan the man! Eddie

spaghetti!" He brightens up happily.

Eddie immediately ran into Richie's arms happily. The doctor laughs a bit before leaving to get the papers. Richie brought Eddie up with his little strength holding him protectively. Stanley smiles a bit before blushing thinking about Bill for the moment.

"Stanley is blushingggggg" Richie teases as Eddie laughs a bit letting go and scanning him. "What? Am I ugly?"

"No! Shut up Richie!" Eddie laughs as Richie brought him close kissing him lovingly.

"Okay okay. Come on you fuckers and let's go" Stanley states as Eddie pulls away looking down at Richie's bandaged ankle.

"Where's your crutch"

"You mean my shoes? Because the crutch is by Stan. My shoes I have zero fucking idea where they are" Richie shrugs a bit.

"I'll go ask for those hospital slippers my mom likes stealing when I come for check ups" Eddie states as he leaves the two alone.

Richie frowns before gripping his chest in pain as Stanley immediately went to his side resting his hand on his thigh.

“You need a minute?”

“Y-Yeah...can you go with him please...” Richie frowns as Stanley nods going to Eddie.

Richie frowns before taking in a deep breath sighing. He slowly got off the bed flinching from his bad ankle. Before Richie could lunge himself to his crutch, Eddie and Stanley had come back. Stanley grabbed his crutch as Eddie set the slippers down for him to put on. Richie grabbed Eddie's shoulder as he put them on keeping his balance.

“Okay let's get these losers back home”

## 23. Ch. 22

“So you’re saying, Eddie started crying. Which made Richie start crying. Then they both felt bad. And now Eddie is in between Richie and the pillow he took from the hospital”

“That’s what I saw when I went to grab my shoes. But hey he came home today so. That’s the bright side to things right?”

“Yeah of course. Do you think he can come back to school”

“Mom said he could. Just gotta keep an eye on him. Since he still needs the crutch for balance. When mom is planning a cane for him”

“Your mom is protective of you two huh?”

“Huh? That’s...well”

“Always keeping an eye on Richie, keeps an eye on you, etcetera” Bill says calmly laying back on the bed as Stanley leaned up against his headboard. “So he’s going to spend the night over there and you’re staying here”

“Pretty much. Want to do anything beside...art homework?”

“Actually. Let’s do the art homework. Then we can go on a walk” Bill

smiles rolling off the bed to grab his sketchbook as Stanley pulled his bag up from the side taking out his.

As the two were drawing, Bill was drawing off topic from their prompt and was enjoying his subject's smile as he drew the prompt. In this case was something that makes you smile. So what Bill was drawing makes sense. But Stanley drew things together. He drew Bill laying on his stomach with his hand up and a robin resting on his index finger. Stanley was enjoying himself as Bill stops drawing for a moment crawling into Stan's lap and bringing his head on his shoulder.

"Give me attention"

"I'm drawing"

"But..."

"You're very...cute. But stop" Stanley smiles closing his sketchbook and using it to push him off of him. "Why would you even want to go on a walk, thought you wanted to be lazy today"

"Mmm....I do want to be lazy. But...Anything with you is perfect" Bill smiles making Stanley blush before getting hit with his sketchbook. "Hnnnnnnnn w-why!"

"Sorry didn't think it'd hurt that much" Stanley says calmly setting the sketch book down resting his hands on Bill's face.

The two stared at each other before closing the space. Bill slowly towered Stanley enjoying the kiss turning it into a deepen make out. Stanley slide underneath him trying not to hit his head on the headboard while Bill enjoyed towering his boyfriend pulling away from his lips and pressing his lips against Stan's neck enjoying it. Stanley gripped onto Bill's flannel while he felt him bite harshly. The two were getting serious but Stanley rolled out from under him when Bill tried stripping him. They've seen each other naked before. Done...oral stuff. Guess Stanley will always be chicken when getting extremely serious. But he was simply not ready and Bill understood that.

"I'm sorry"

"You're fine.." Stanley blushes heavily on the floor covering his face.

Bill looked over staring at Stanley before helping him back up and onto the bed. He sat himself up and against the headboard looking at Stanley who wouldn't stop staring at him with a blush on his face.

"You okay?"

"Mhm. Fine. Perfect" Stanley got up off the bed as he walks to the door closing it completely. "Just uh..." he blushes heavily knowing what he wants.

"Stan-" Bill stops talking as he watches Stanley lock the door turning off the lights before walking back to the bed.

“I...let’s take it slow” Stanley whispers as he climbs into Bill’s lap wrapping his arms around his neck.

“Slow...”

After a while Stanley stumbles his way into his room startling the two by turning on the light. Eddie looked at Stanley’s blushing red face before scanning his person seeing the hickeys and the wrinkled clothes.

“Oh my god”

“Eddie shut the fuck up”

“You fucked”

“Huh...” Richie brought his tired ass up putting his glasses on and noticing. “Shit. Stan got some”

Stanley immediately grabbed his pillow starting to hit the two making them laugh as Richie quickly got out from the blows avoiding the pain as Eddie couldn’t stop laughing at all that’s happening. The two suddenly stopped when Richie started coughing.

“Water?” Stanley asks as Richie nods sitting down in the desk chair.



“You want some..too Eddie?”

“H..” Richie coughs a bit. “He takes his medicine soon...yes” He says calmly as Stanley went to get the water.

Eddie frowns as he rolls off the bed walking over to Richie resting his hands on his face. Richie moves himself on the edge of the seat wrapping his arms around his waist digging his face in his stomach. Eddie brought his arms around his shoulders running one of his hands through his hair.

“It was so scary Eds...”

“Hm..?”

“One...one second I was tossed against the trunk of my car...then strangled. Punched. Kicked. And...I thought pretending it all didn’t happen would make me feel better...but it just makes me feel worse...” Richie only said the little bitch of what happened but he felt Eddie hold onto him tighter which made him do the same.

“I’m just....Richie I’m happy that you’re fine...please tell me everything in your head..I don’t want you carrying so much baggage” Eddie whispers resting his head on top of his as he started tearing up.

When Stanley came back he looked at the two frowning but as he set down the glasses. He walks over to the two joining in on the hug as Richie immediately grabbed onto the back of Stanley’s sweater and

Eddie rest his head on his shoulder. Three emotional boys.

Experiencing completely different things.

The next day came around as Stanley waited in the impala for Eddie and Richie to go to school. He watches the doors open as the two flood in. Eddie sat in the back holding Richie's crutch as Richie got comfortable in the front buckling.

"Feeling alright?"

"Yeah..I think I'll be fine"

"Okay, lets go then"

As they were driving Richie kept dozing off and day dreaming about multiple things. Stanley looked over every now and then concerned for the most part as Eddie radiates worry.

"So. How'd you hide your hickeys?"

"EDDIE" Stanley exploded with this blushing as Richie snickers.

"Come on. Show them off, don't hide'em~" Richie smirks as Eddie was joining the blushing club. Richie laughs a bit as the two were

panicking in their gay thoughts.

“Look at this fucking reckless boy” Bev laughs as she watches Richie get out of the car. “You have a lot of work to catch up on”

“Yeah yeah. That’s what this weekend is for” Richie laughs a bit as he took his crutch from Eddie before moving to close the door.

“No sex for weeks huh?” Bev teases making Richie blush a tad and Eddie blush even more. “Y’all are so easy to make blush”

“Shut up Bev” Eddie blushes crossing his arms as she laughs a little.

“Well. Take it easy Tozier. And stay away from those fuckers” Bev states before hurrying inside to find her Hanscom.

Richie rolls his eyes nudging Eddie to catch his attention. He watches his nerd stare up at him with that adorable blush of his. Richie smiles happily planting a kiss on his cheek before making his way slowly inside. Leaving the panicked gay to panic more.

As the hall people were nice enough to move out of the way when Richie tried to walk by, he tried to walk faster when he passed by Sam’s group but it only made his energy drain faster. He rest against his locker staring at it waiting for the moment to pass.

“You alright Rich?”

Richie grew confused as he looks over seeing Ryan his old teammate lean up against the lockers.

“I thought you left the school honestly”

“The baseball team needs me for the upcoming season” Ryan laughs a bit before doing that dumb handshake high school boys do with Richie. “So, the fuck happen man? You think you’ll be ready for baseball season?”

“I will off myself if I’m not ready for my last season” Richie laughs as he stumbles a bit keeping his balance while grabbing his books.

“Let me Rich” Ryan smiles offering a helping hand as Richie drops his backpack watching Ryan put his books in them.

Eddie walks into the senior’s hall staring at the two.

“Eddie lets-“ Mike stops himself as now both of them were staring at Ryan and Richie. “He’s just his baseball mate”

“Mate?”

“Eddie. You know what I mean. They are just T E A M M A T E S”

“How the-...Stop. I know. Just...” Eddie stares at Ryan scanning his entire person while he helped Richie. “I’m supposed to help Richie..”

“You do help Richie. He just got a head start in the hall. You know he’s going to take forever to walk”

“Yeah but-“

“Eddie. Stop worrying about it” Mike tries his best to reassure before going to meet up with his lady.

Eddie continued to stare before taking a deep breath and walking over to his locker. As he was opening it he heard more of the two’s conversation.

“So. Who the fuck are you fancying now? Is it still that Erin girl?”

“Oh the girl that cheered me on at games?”

“Yeah. Her”

“Fuck I wish but no. I’m with Henderson”

“Oh shit. Henderson? Really?”

“You sound so fucking surprised that I’m with our first baseman”

“I didn’t know! Fuck dude. I’m happy for you” Richie nudges Ryan making him laugh a bit. “How long?”

“Just, since baseball season last year. What about you and Edward? How long has that bean”

“You want my answer or the worlds?”

“Yours”

“Eddie has always had a place in my heart since we were 13. Him being officially my boyfriend? Almost a year” Richie smiles as he saw Eddie dig himself into his locker which made him laugh to himself. “I’ll see you when practice comes back around”

“Alright Tozier. See you then” Ryan smiles leaving as Richie struggles his way to Eddie.

“Hey-“ Richie rests his hand on Eddie’s shoulder causing him to completely flinch. “Woah. Sorry”

“No no no it’s fine. I’m sorry..”

“Eddie spaghetti you don’t need to apologize” Richie smiles as he looks at the heavy blush on his face. “You feeling alright?” He kisses his cheek causing him to instantly wrap his arms around Richie carefully minding the stitches in his side. “Baby”

“Hnnnnnnnn....” Eddie held onto him for a while as it was mainly a jealous thing of that Ryan kid. But also the fact that what Richie said tugged at his heart strings.

Richie smiles enjoying this as he kept his Eds close until they had to split for class.

When lunch came around Richie had his head in Bev’s lap as it was just the two outside under the bleachers while the others were making their way there. He kept staring at the bottom of the bleachers while he inhaled a bit of the smoke from Bev’s cigarette causing him to cough every now and then.

“I can put it out Rich”

“No..it’s fine” Richie frowns as he slowly sat up feeling sore. “I um. Need a minute”

Beverly frowns watching Richie struggle to get up before eventually and taking his crutch to help him. She watches him go inside for the moment as the rest of the losers joined her. Including Eddie.

“Where did he-“

“I’m not sure Eds”

“He will probably come back. If not in fifteen. You can go in” Stanley reassures as Bill rolls his eyes.

“Go now if you truly want to check up on him” Bill states as they all watch Eddie immediately get up to check up on him.

“Eddie is an extremely emotional person Bill”

“We all are. We just experience how most things are differently. If he wants to check up on him. Let him”

“Okay okay. Damn” Stanley rolls his eyes as Bill snickers a bit.

“Is that a hickey?” Mike asks as Stanley started blushing and quickly hiding as Bev started laughing.



## 24. Ch. 23

“Richie..?” Eddie frowns opening the bathroom door finding Richie sitting on the ground. “Did you fall?”

“No..” Richie frowns as he rests his head on Eddie’s shoulder once he sat beside him.

“Are you okay..”

“No..” For once Richie was honest instead of hiding shit to himself. He moved his arm in Eddie’s lap feeling him hold his hand with both of his.

“You wanna talk about it?”

“Not really...” Richie held his hand staring at their hands for a while feeling Eddie rests his head on top of his.

“I’m here Trashmouth”

“Thanks Eddie spaghetti..”

“I swear...” Eddie laughs a bit missing the dumb nicknames some days. Richie smiles before kicking the stall door closed. “Hm?”

Richie knew he was going to be sore after as he lets go of Eddie's hand before bringing Eddie into his lap. Eddie adjusted himself to face Richie as he was hesitant when being careful not to hurt him. Richie on the other hand didn't care for the moment. He brought him close as he plants his lips on Eddie's neck enjoying himself. Eddie grew flustered as he brought his arms around his neck.

"I don't-.."

"Hm...?" Richie pulls away wiping his mouth with his sleeve looking at the red blushing mess.

"I don't want to hurt you..."

"You won't.."

Eddie blushes heavily thinking to himself before grabbing Richie's face and closing the space.

As the moment passed, Richie leaned against the stall door blushing heavily as he adjusted himself. He heard the knock before moving his balance onto the sink counter. Eddie blushes heavily coming out in Richie's hoodie. Eddie scans around when they both knew they were alone.

"The floor is hard"

“It’s tile. Of course it is”

“Beep beep Richie!” Eddie blushes even more before freaking when he noticed Richie’s side bleeding a tad. “Oh my fucking god-“

“What?” Richie looks down noticing. “Okay and?”

“I TOLD YOU I DIDNT WANT TO HURT YOU”

“Eds-“

“HOLD THE FUCK UP AND STAY HERE” Eddie panics leaving the bathroom before collapsing.

“Shit Eddie.” Richie freaks grabbing his stuff and hurrying out of there which only hurt him more.

Richie dropped his stuff helping Eddie up as he felt pain in his side when doing so. He straighten up after helping his partner up to only notice Sam approaching the two.

“You look like a fucking mess Tozier. Better get that side checked before you get another trip to the hospital” Sam snickers passing the two before suddenly face planting into the ground. “What the-...”

Richie freaks a bit before noticing Eddie has tripped him on purpose.

“Fuck it” Richie snaps before grabbing his backpack and suddenly picking up Eddie making him scream from the sudden action.

As Richie started running while holding Eddie, Eddie only worried about all the pain Richie must be feeling. But Richie wasn't in the mood to be at Eddie's bedside caused by those fuckers. The two stumble into the science lab as Richie sets down Eddie before running behind the teacher's desk.

“Richie. You didn't-“

“Shut the fuck up Eddie”

“Rich-“

“All I want to do. Is protect you. That's. All. I. Want. To. Do.” Richie frowns sitting in the desk chair breaking into the desk taking out the heavy first aid kit. “That's...all I want to do” he started tearing up as he rummages in the box getting what he needs.

“Richie let me..please” Eddie frowns taking off Richie's glasses so he wouldn't fog them up from crying.

Richie started crying even more as Eddie took him into his arms for the moment. Letting him let it all out.

“Where the fuck did you two go?” Bill snaps as it was now the last class of the day. The two practically disappeared for a few classes.

“A lot of stuff went down, leave it be Bill” Richie sat down in his seat as Eddie pushed his chair directly next to him before sitting.

“Y’all did it. Didn’t you” Stanley blurts as Eddie started blushing again putting his hood on and closing it on his face. “Yeah” he laughs a bit before noticing the blood stain on Richie’s shirt. “Did you tear your stitches?”

“No, it just bled..” Richie frowns as Eddie took care of him so he wouldn’t have to completely worry.

“If the teacher sees she’ll send you to the nurse’s” Bill tells Richie as he took his flannel off tossing it at Richie. “Cover up”

“Aww we are all getting boyfriend shirts” Richie jokes getting slapped by Eddie as he started laughing even more.

“I’m stealing that once we get home”

“Oh I know Stanley. Just let me enjoy it for a moment” Richie laughs as Eddie smacks him again. “Stopppppp”

“Then you stoppp...”

“No” Richie states as Eddie took the hood off his head before slapping Richie again making him pinch Eddie giving out a loud squeak of a scream. “Okay. What the fuck” he blushes watching Eddie blush embarrassed.

“I swear to god y’all are disaster gays” Bill laughs starting to get to work.

As the class plays out Stanley kept his eyes on all the bandages on Richie. The worry started to get the best of him and Bill knew that but he didn’t want Stanley doing anything stupid. When the class got out, Stanley watched Richie hang back a bit in the class to turn in his late pieces. Eddie stood beside Stanley as he watches Stanley look directly at him.

“Did he go to the nurse?”

“No why?”

“He should’ve been taken to the nurse Eddie”

“The stitches didn’t break. He’s fi-“

“No he’s not! You and I both know Richie. He says he’s fine when he’s not.”

“You’re right. I do know that. But I also know he talks to me when he needs to”

“Yeah but what if you need to get something out of him? Remember last time he kept shit to himself-“

“Shut the fuck up Stanley. Richie talks to me even if I have to force it out of him. Even then you shouldn’t force someone to speak.”

“But-“

“BUT WHAT?! If someone doesn’t want to talk. You give them that right but you’re still there to comfort in silence. Then when they are ready they’ll tell you. Who the fuck gave you the right to question how I take care of my boyfriend? Who the fuck told you to question how I take care of my best friend? Stay the fuck out of it Stan” Eddie frowns storming off.

Stanley frowns knowing he hit a nerve. Bill stares at Stan really annoyed that that had just happened. Richie on the other hand, heard all of what was said. Richie didn’t know how to handle this but he knew he wanted to check up on Eddie. Stanley has Bill for that moment.

“Hey” Richie kisses Eddie’s cheek as he waited for a response but

didn't get one. "Want to go to the bridge? Enjoy the silence"

Eddie frowns but when that was suggested. He wanted to. He nods watching Richie go to Stan to get his keys. Eddie frowns standing there as Bev walks next to him since her locker is next to his. She watches the three before nudging Eddie catching him out of his thoughts.

"You good?"

"Stanley is annoying"

"So are you, Richie, Bill-"

"The fuck"

"Everyone is annoying. You have to be specific"

"Before Richie and I got together. Stanley would always take the responsibility to make sure Richie is okay. It wasn't vice versa because Richie is a social butterfly and cares about everyone. I mean. We all care about everyone. But Stanley is super picky about shit I do with Richie. I don't fucking know why"

"He woke up. To Richie being in the hospital. He feels like shit for it. But all the other times. Stanley is an extremely over protective person of everyone. Not just Richie"



“Yeah. I understand that...but...why does does make it okay to yell at me” Eddie frowns as he peeks up a bit when Richie came back.

“Hey, lets go”

“Nice flannel Richie”

“Thanks. It’s Bill’s, but bitch ain’t getting it back” Richie jokes before wrapping an arm around Eddie as the two make their way to his impala.

Once the two got in the car, Richie looks over at Eddie frowning as he rests his hand on Eddie’s cheek.

“You want to talk about it when we get there?”

Eddie frowns looking over to Richie. “You’ll talk to me whenever you have something on your mind?”

“Of course baby” Richie felt Eddie remove his hand before holding it in his. “Would you talk to me?”

“Stan is your best friend, and he worries about you a shitton. I get that. But you have me. And I worry about you a fuckton. More than I should ever. But I don’t need to feel ATTACKED for wanting to do

things DIFFERENTLY” Eddie frowns as he felt Richie squeeze his hands before bringing the back of one of Eddie’s hands up to his lips kissing it gently.

“I love you Eddie, you’re one of my best friends, and I’ll die without you. Everyone has different ways in showing how they care. So if he tries to say there’s only one way. Just tell me and I’ll talk to him”

A short while has passed as Richie sat on the railing of the bridge looking down. Eddie sat beside him shaking thinking he’s going to fall. Not a big drop, but if he did fall he’d break something.

“Hey Richie?”

“Yeah?”

“Do you think we’ll keep in touch after high school?”

Richie hates these conversations. Especially when they were out of the blue.

“I hope so. You’re still gonna be my boyfriend aren’t you?” Richie jokes as Eddie leans against him nodding. “It hasn’t even been your birthday yet and you’re stressing about after high school. Anything else rushing through your head?”

“You hate seeing me hurt and I hate seeing you hurt. But why does it

keep happening...especially you. What did Sam Bowers do you trigger you so badly? Besides..being Henry's younger brother"

Richie took a minute to find the words, but they weren't coming out. As they were simply latching onto the back of his throat trying not to tell Eddie that when he discovered these feelings. He wished he was dead in that shit hole of a town. Instead he tried being vague, telling Eddie the time in the arcade. Being called a fairy. Fag. Running out containing new to unwanted feelings. Being betrayed by someone he could've called a friend. But no Sam just has to follow in his brother's footsteps and be an asshole. The joking just got the best of Rich. Some were too far. Some were little. He just wouldn't take it. Especially if the jokes aren't even toward him. Most understand what it feels like to be called certain things that trigger the mind to force the body to do harsh actions. But in his case. Richie goes to an extreme level for his reaction. Eddie frowns looking at Richie's expression stay sour after saying all that was supposed to be vague out of his mouth. He gets off the railing watching Richie turn toward him. Eddie moves in between Richie's legs feeling Richie rest his hands on his face.

"You kept that..all to yourself?"

"What was I going to do? Tell all of the losers?"

"Yeah"

"I just keep shit to myself most of the time. Have y'all assume why I'm so anal towards the Bowers" Richie gets off the railing carefully as he wrapped his arms around Eddie's waist keeping him close.

“You need to talk more...about what goes on in your head”

“You’ve said that before. And you know I’m not the only one”

“Oh I know...but still” Eddie smiles a bit to bring a smile to Richie’s face.

## 25. Ch. 24

---

Richie carries Eddie out from under Neibolt with the help of Mike and Bill.

Once they all reached the surface, Bill started doing CPR as Bev immediately called 911. Leaving Richie in full panic by himself trying to hold onto something on Eddie but Ben and Mike kept him away for Bill to do his best.

When the paramedics came they took Eddie immediately leaving Richie at Neibolt with the other losers. Richie was about to go when he felt the tears starting to form in his eyes.

“I can’t. Lose him. Again.”

---

Richie jolts awake taking in a deep breath as he slowly sat up looking over to Stanley. He didn’t want to disturb his slumber. But he did anyway by poking his cheek for a reaction. Stanley scratched his face as a reaction still sleeping before getting poked in the eye by Richie.

“The fuck dude...” Stanley smacked Richie’s hand away frowning rubbing his eye.

Richie frowns bringing his legs over as this is happening at three am. The morning of Eddie's birthday. Richie needed to clear his head in order to enjoy the day with the love of his life. Stanley turned on his light looking at Richie suddenly tearing up.

"Rich what's wrong"

"Do you think we'll keep in touch when we all leave Derry? Do you think....Eddie will still love me?" Richie started choking up on his words as Stanley got off his bed to sit beside him. Richie immediately hugged Stanley suddenly balling as Stanley held him for the moment.

"Dude. Knowing you. You're gonna stick to Eddie like glue. Even if you may or may not be miles away. Plus. Us losers gotta stick together. We aren't leaving each other any time soon. Enjoy the now Rich"

Richie gripped onto his back taking it all in as Stanley didn't object to any of it.

Once Richie felt better the two went back to sleep. Stanley woke up in the respectful morning up and ready for the plan. Letting Richie sleep in a bit more.

"Why the fuck are you picking me up? I thought-Fuck. Knew Richie would forget" Eddie frowns getting into the truck as Bill rolls his eyes smiling.

“There’s a shitton planned for you Eddie. Don’t let Richie keep you down. Now let’s go pick up the others”

“But. Fucking—Ugh..” Eddie frowns before taking in a deep breath.  
“Okay. I won’t let that bitch get to me”

“Good” Bill laughs.

After picking up Ben, Bev, Mike, and Stan. The six made a few stops and spoiled Eddie in every way possible. Soon Bill parked the truck closes to the Barrens as the losers went on foot. Bev navigated a blind folded Eddie as Ben and Mike carried the goods. Stanley started snickering you himself as Bill elbows him to stop knowing what’s about to happen is extremely cheesy.

“Don’t trip me”

“I won’t Eddie”

“Because I’m. Not in the mood.”

“I know Eddie”

“This is also a new sweater”

“Eddie. Just trust me” Bev laughs as Stanley and Bill open the hatch jumping down helping Ben and Mike. “Okay coming down Eddie” she navigates him down the latter with the help of Ben.

Once they were all down, Stanley and Bill rotate Eddie to face a certain way.

“Don’t move Eddie”

“I swear to fuck if something jumps out at me I will end all of you.” Eddie states as Richie turned on all the lights he put down there with the help of batteries of course. Richie looked at the other losers watching them smile at how much time and effort he put into this. Including his outfit.

Richie took a few steps to stand in front of Eddie resting his hands on his face to only get socked by Eddie. Bill burst into laughter at what happened with Mike and Bev joining in. Stanley tried to keep it in but it was difficult. Ben laughs as he helps Richie up before taking off Eddie’s blindfold knowing it was a bad idea. Eddie opened his eyes looking around finding all the blankets, pillows, lights, birthday decorations, and little things here and there. Eddie looked over at Richie seeing him dressed nicely in a white button down, black slacks, black suspenders, and of course his dumb converse. Richie had his sleeves rolled up and his hair actually brushed. He took care of himself practically. Eddie started tearing up at all the effort but also the fact that he punched the love of his life in his face.

“I’m sorry”



“It’s fine Eds, Happy Birthday” Richie laughs off the punch before embracing his love.

“It was fucking funny though” Bev laughs still thinking about Richie getting socked in the face. “Happy Birthday Eds”

“You’re finally an adult” Bill adds catching a laugh from Eddie.

“Happy Birthday Eddie!”

“Our Eddie is all grown up”

“God you just sounded like my mom Mike” Eddie laughs as Richie let go of him for the moment to grab his backpack taking out a cassette and putting it in Ben’s boom box.

As the celebration goes on with stolen liquor and cigarettes from Bev, soda and snacks from Ben, music from Richie, games from Stanley, gifts from all of the losers, and many other things that only made Eddie extremely happy.

“Yo, your minutes are up” Richie jokes leaning against the post the hammock is attached to.

Eddie laughs a bit before moving the pillow he was holding to hold

his arms out for Richie to climb in laying on him. Richie smiles happily taking the invitation. Eddie held him happily enjoying his birthday with the ones he love. He squeezes as Richie looked up before sneaking in a kiss here and there.

“When do you think the hammock is going to break because of their weight?”

“Soon” Ben states as Stanley rolls his eyes smiling. “At least they are happy”

“We all are” Bill smiles kissing Stanley lovingly.

Bev turns to Ben smiling sneaking in a kiss for herself as Mike watches all three couples kiss their partner wishing his was here. Pretty much being the seventh wheel to whatever car has seven wheels.

A few hours went by as Richie and Eddie were alone walking back to Eddie's. He held his hand happily in his as the two were enjoying the silence and the moment together. Eddie was happy carrying his backpack of well thought out gifts from his friends. He was soon stopped by Richie pulling him back to him. Eddie stares wide eyed at Richie getting down on one knee.

“Richie fucking Tozier-“

“Stop. Before you think I'm proposing. It's not that far, I'd like to wait

to move in with you before I pop that question. But” Richie lets go of his hand for the moment going into his bag taking out a small box. “Happy Birthday Eds”

“I swear to fuck with you and your nicknames” Eddie laughs smiling as he carefully takes the box opening it revealing a silver band with R engraved. “Oh? And yours is?” Eddie smiles putting it on while watching Richie unbutton a button of his shirt showing the ring with E engraved. “Didn’t want to spoil the surprised by wearing it before you gave me mine?”

“Damn. I hope your smart cute ass face becomes a doc” Richie smiles standing to his feet bringing Eddie into his arms and kissing him lovingly.

“And your dumbass will be a comedian”

“Hey they make a living from their careers. I’ll be perfect with my Mrs. K jokes~”

“Pfft. Bet you’ll have ghost writers”

“Ouch Eddie spaghetti. Ouch” Richie a ted defeated as Eddie laughs before holding his face in his hands smiling leaning into a kiss that Richie happily accepted.

After that moment, their days grew shorter as the months went by. Eddie prepared himself for what his future holds even if it did hurt

him to think he'll be leaving Richie. Richie on the other hand, was playing the Bill card every day until spring when he gave up trying to make Eddie go to a college in California with him. Soon it was graduation and the losers were sitting in their places as the names got called.

William Denbrough

Benjamin Hanscom

Mike Hanlon

Edward Kaspbrak

Beverly Marsh

Richard Tozier

Stanley Uris

All were called, all graduated, and all were feeling all kinds of feelings.

When the graduation was over and all their fellow classmates including some of them went to see their parents. Richie sat on the

hood of his car letting the emotions sink in as the tears rolled down his cheeks. He took his glasses off to wipe them away and when he put them on he saw all his fellow losers approach him. Bev immediately hugged Richie knowing deep down even if his parents hated his choices, he would've wanted them there. Ben joined in on this hug along with Mike as Stanley felt the tears forming in his eyes knowing their summer will go by quickly so he's going to have to take advantage of it all. Bill brought his partner into his arms letting him cry it out on his gown not giving a damn if it gets ruined.

"I...I don't want to be alone" Eddie states as the tears have been streaming down his cheeks.

Richie parts from the three before embracing Eddie like it was the end of the world. Eddie held onto him crying into his shoulder. Both knowing what'll happen at the end of the summer.

At the end of the summer...

Saying goodbye to friends before opening the next chapter of your life, hurts. Hugging them like it's the end. Telling them that they'll meet again. Sooner or later, but never never. Beverly was first to leave, Ben shortly following, then Stanley and Bill, Mike staying for State, and....

Leaving Richie at the bus stop with his suitcase and backpack. He reached into his shirt looking at the ring which he'll keep even after the end of his days. Richie watches his bus slowly approach before turning to Eddie who'd been crying even if they both accepted this outcome.

“Please....try and keep in touch with me” Richie begged as Eddie hugged the taller male holding him happily.

“I will, Richie..” Eddie whispers in his ear as Richie parts when the bus arrives. “I love you Trashmouth”

“And I love you Eddie spaghetti” Richie smiles giving Eddie’s heart warmth before stealing a final kiss enjoying it.

Then leaving....

But that sudden shock-

In everyone’s mind

Erased...

Now old feelings...

That’ll return, when they return.

### **Notes for the Chapter:**

One more chapter and it’s done, I’ve been...meaning to draw this closed for a while. Hope you’ve enjoyed

## 26. END

27 years

Reunion

Memory

Ritual

Token

Deadlights

Heartache

Death

Rebirth

“So we are heading back to California? Or should we wait?”

“Wait for what?”

“Well Richie if you’re a true friend you’d wait an extra month for me to bring the love of my life home”

“Do you think his many therapists would allow you to do that? Don’t you think change is overwhelming?”

“It’s overwhelming of course Rich. But we gotta face it sooner or later”

“Guess that’s true. But I think...Eds needs a month before I take him home with me”

“Rich”

“Yeah Bill?”

“Are you h-happy?”

Richie laughs a bit as the two looked at the automatic doors open to show Eddie finally joining the two in his “I survived” look. In this case new clothes and a very unmanaged hospital beard.

“Yeah, I’m happy” Richie smiles stealing a kiss from Eddie making



him scream a bit. “What??”

“Don’t kiss me until I fucking shave”

“Okay okay” Richie laughs as does Bill. “Taking us home?”

“We need a fucking Uber”

“I’ll drive Eds” Bill laughs going to get his car while the two waited.

Richie took his jacket off and putting it on Eddie who happily slipped his arms into the sleeves. Eddie sighs happily before resting against Richie.

“I’m still mad”

“What’d I do now?”

“You didn’t keep in touch after high school”

“Eds-“

“Yeah yeah. The clown had somethin to do about it. But hey.

Would've been nice if we had remember. Maybe I wouldn't have married thatbitch"

"Maybe? Are you saying if we knew each other during the college days you wouldn't have wanted to marry me?"

"I didn't say that, I would be very skeptical of your career choice. But deep down I know it fits you. It makes you happy. Makes me happy" Eddie sighs as Richie wrapped an arm around him. "I've missed you Richie Tozier"

"I've missed you so much more Eddie Kaspbrak" Richie states as he rests his head on top of his while they waited.

As the three were soon in the car and on the way to Eddie's. Bill thought to himself that when the light turned red as he pulled up. He plugged his phone in and started playing Never Tear Us Apart by INXS which got a smile from his two losers. Then when they arrived and helped Eddie get that failure of a beard off his face. Bill went to make a few calls leaving the two alone in the living room. Eddie thought to himself before getting up to grab something from his room. Richie watched him go as he takes his graphic button down off revealing an old necklace with that same ring. He held it in his hands feeling hands on the back of his neck unclipping the necklace.

"I swear-" Richie stops talking finding Eddie holds his in his hand before putting it on his ring finger replacing his old one. "Oh-"

"Will you marry me Richie Tozier?" Eddie says while taking Richie's into his hands and presenting it with a smile.

“You smooth motherfucker” Richie laughs kissing Eddie lovingly as his yes answer.

Bill snuck a picture of the two smiling to himself as he sends it to the group chat the losers have.

Bev: I S W E A R T O F U C K F I N A L L Y

Ben: 27 years and six months later...

Mike: I’m a proud father of my disaster gays

Bev: MIKE DONT MAKE ME LAUGH IM IN A MEETING

Bill: He ain’t wrong though. He’s just a father of four disaster gays

Ben: Love outing yourself as a disaster

Mike: 30 days Bill, then I can be a proud father of four disaster gays

Bill: 30 days....

And those thirty days went by fast, with the benefit of weekend visits. Richie had driven Bill to the center Stan was at and waited in the car while Bill went in.

“Stanley Uris” Bill asks the front desk as he watches them go through the papers before handing Bill a list of potential therapists around the nation that their facility recommends.

“He’s on his way Mr. Denbrough” The nurse puts the phone down before getting up to grab the belongings kept in the safe for safety reasons.

Stanley smiles in the hall watching Bill scan around the other direction looking for him. He drags his suitcase directly next to Bill catching his attention happily.

“Mr. Uris” The nurse hands him the yellow envelope with his other belongings. “I gave your husband the professional list-“

“Oh he’s...” Stanley thought before smiling. “Yeah he’s my husband. Thank you”

“Be safe out there Mr. Uris” The nurse waves the two off as Stanley held Bill’s hand heading out.

“So you accept my proposal from the time you were in a hospital bed?”

“I had months to think about it love. Yes I do accept” Stanley smiles as Bill stole a kiss happily.

Richie soon punches the horn getting a loud groan from Stanley with Bill laughing.

“GET IN GAYS WE GETTING MY FIANCÉ”

“OH MY GOD WAIT—“

“Shit—“ Richie fumbled to put the keys into the car as Stanley dragged Richie’s ass out of the car.

“YOU DIDN’T TELL YOUR BEST FRIEND YOU GOT ENGAGED” Stan snacked Richie after dragging him out as they started arguing like two foxes over a bird.

Bill stared at the two laughing hysterically as he enjoyed this sight.

Joy

Happiness

Engagement

Love

Tranquility

Is exactly what they needed....

The year came to a close, what a stressful year. Ending with peace.

“Can’t believe the gangs all together, isn’t that right?” Beverly smiles making cute little noises to the little baby laying in her arms comfortably. “You love your uncles, yeah” she smiles happily.

“Quinn is the cutest little baby in the world, she’s totally going to get corrupted by Richie” Stanley jokes as he sits beside Beverly looking at the little girl.

“Oh if her first word is a swear it’ll most likely be from Beverly. Because her assistants don’t know their heads from their ass” Ben smiles kissing Beverly lovingly as he sets down his coffee to pick up his little girl. “So when are the boys going to come back from their run?”

“You mean their alcohol run? Yeah don’t ask me” Stanley laughs a bit as Beverly rests her head on his shoulder, happily resting his head on top of hers. “Is it weird having a sleepover in our forties?”

“No! Just. If y’all complain about Quinn waking up in the middle of the night. I will kick your ass”

“Bev. Remember. Eddie and Richie did bring their dog. That monster has more unpredictable things than a baby” Stanley states as Ben laughs to himself rocking his little one.

“Dude. If those two had a baby. Eddie wouldn’t sleep one bit. Because he’ll be listening to their baby breath” Ben says quietly before carefully sitting on the ground holding his baby. That’s when the monster came over. This one year old Pomeranian names Ginger, and she’s only nice to everyone except Richie.

“Still can’t believe they got a dog that that other monster mimicked” Bev picked up Ginger carefully resting her in her lap.

The three enjoyed the silence until the door opened revealing the four other losers. Richie came in carrying the bag with the liquor as Eddie and Bill carried food in. Mike simply just arrived at the Losers Club sleepover.

“You can set the stuff on the counter guys” Bev says calmly as Richie came around picking up Ginger. “Stan. Have 911 on speed dial”

“Nah. You should see what she actually does. It’s funny” Stan states as Richie sits on the loveseat with Ginger in his lap.

“You see...it’s proven in some fucking article that petting your dog helps with your blood pressure” Richie says as he starts petting Ginger who started nibbling his fingers when they touched her.

Bev started laughing with Stanley as Eddie sits next to Richie taking Ginger and letting her go before elbowing him in the stomach for doing that. Richie kept the dumb smile on his face as he thought it was funny.

“Go put Quinn down for her nap Ben. While I open hopefully the wine I asked for” Bev got up from the couch going into the kitchen to find two bottles. “Thank the heavens”

Ben got up carefully with the help of Mike as he carries Quinn happily to her nursery. Eddie watches them carefully before laying against Richie.

“Are you happy Eds?”

“Don’t call me Eds” Eddie scoffs a bit staying close to his partner as he watches everyone enjoy the company of one another. “I’m so thankful..”

“Thankful for what?”

“I’m so thankful...”



---

“I love you Eddie Spaghetti” Richie screams off the top of his lungs waving him off from the bus window as it drove off.

“Beep beep Richie!”

---

“...to be alive”

**Notes for the Chapter:**

Thanks for reading 🍀